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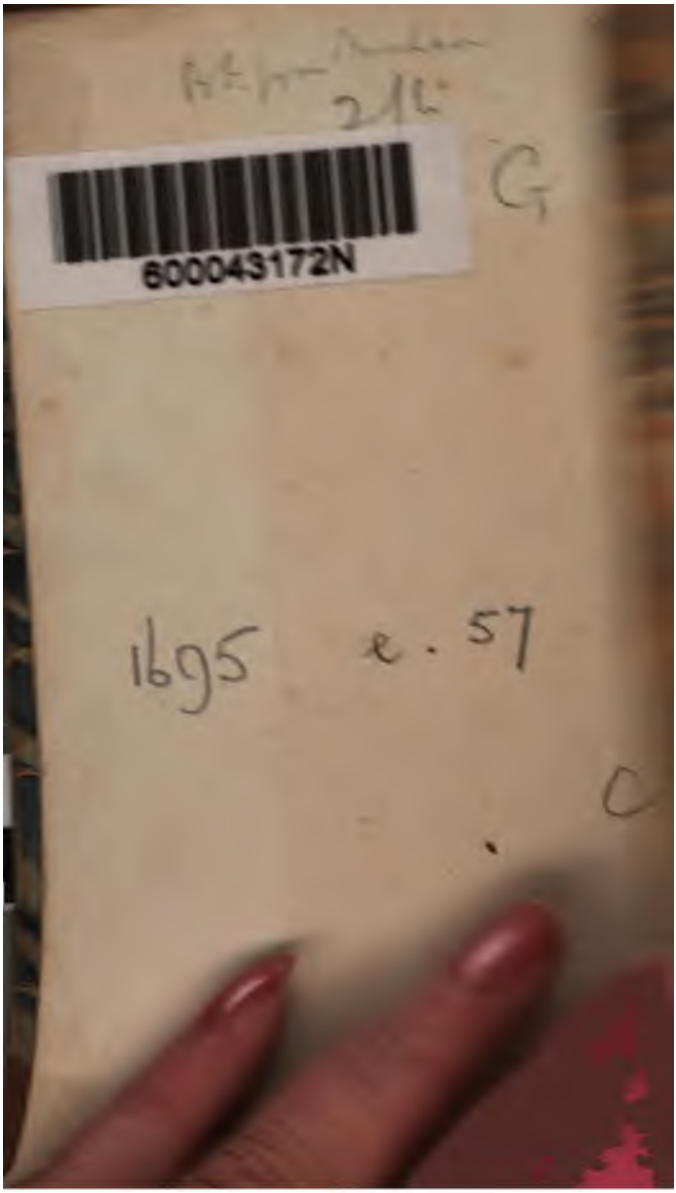
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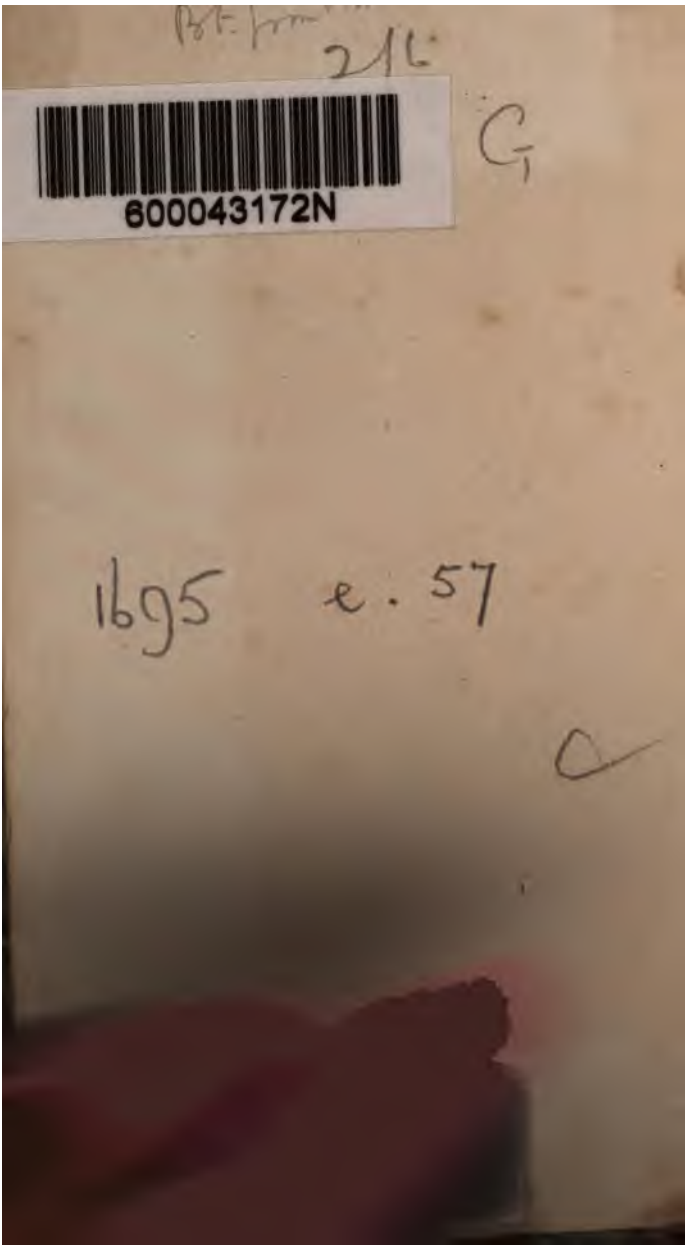
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THE

CAMBRIAN BALNEA:

OR GUIDE TO THE

WATERING PLACES OF WALES,

MARINE AND INLAND;

BY T. J. LLEWELYN PRICHARD,

AUTHOR OF "WELSH MINSTRELSY," AND OTHER POEMS.

Llandrindod, Cambria's Montpelier!
Llanwrtyd, Builth, are pictured here;
Health's own spas, spread far and near,
That Cymru's land is bless'd with;
Ruthyn, Barmouth, Swansea fair,
Sweet Tenby, with her ocean air!
Lakes, alpine heights, vales, woodlands rare;
Llanstephan, Aberystwyth.

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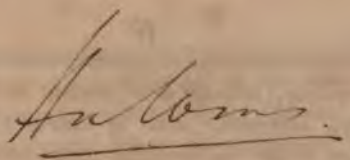

Preface.

A blessing on the man who first invented a preface!—although descried by geniuses and quizzed by wits as a useless appendage to a book, we find them all incapable, in the end, of bringing forth their literary offspring without the especial aid and introductory assistance of the gentle preface. But Dame Preface, properly a peace-maker, proves sometimes a meddling gossip, and go-between the Author and Reader, forgetting her humble and circumscribed office, prates to a most unconscionable length so as to merit the odious designation of a BORE. *With such I would have nothing to do, and much less with the rhythmical, epigrammic, and ironical preface of a friend of mine, who some years ago* intended *to enlighten the world by writing a volume of Satires on the vices of the age, but as the said world used him rather scurvily, he revenged himself on it, most amply, by witholding his precious lectures, no part of which were produced except the poetical preface*

in question, which I here present to the critical reader, intreating him to believe I was greatly shocked at the cool impudence and unorthodox familiarity of its profane author, who could so irreverently address the august guardians of taste, and generous defenders of public morals.

"PREFACE.

Addressed to the Reviewers.

Your most obedient, Gents. Reviewers!
While you're civil, Sirs, I'm yours,
But wear your damning scowls
To mar the Poet's sale of goods,
Too much has he been used to woods
To be now scared by Owls."

As this specimen of impertinence cannot be laid at my door, or be supposed to be spoken in my own proper person, it will be necessary to say something prefatory of my forthcoming work, so "gentle reader," as Francis Moore, the Almanack Physician, says, take at once both its negative and positive qualities.

It is not to be a dry chronicle of the medicinal merits of the various waters, nor a tedious compilation from stupid tours or antiquated books of topography. It will neither prove a factious declaimer on polities, nor a servile time-serving vehicle of adulation to the great. It shall not drug the public with the dull opiate of family pedigrees, nor niggardly yield them "a grain of wheat in a bushel of chaff," but useful, interesting, amusing, and original matter, I trust, can, and will be abundantly found. For it should be remembered, we are now in the land of legends, mountains, and romance! and that

"Cambria hath not a vale
But appertains to it a tale;
Cambria hath not a hill
But teems with themes of wonder still,
Her mountains dun and vallies green
Have been of marvels wild the scene,
Her memorable feats belong
To history and bardic song.

Cambria---land of romance!
The wizzard's wand, the warrior's lance,
The minstrel's harp, the druid's oak,
The broken gyve, the shatter'd yoke,
The murder'd bard, the hero slain,
To her, to her, well appertain!
And interest holds sweet command
Still, still, o'er Cymru's mountain land."

Nobly, amid her land of lakes
Wild Cadair Idris proudly breaks;
Pimlimon,* father of the floods!
Divested of his native woods
Frowns sternly yet; and still more grand
High Snowden, supreme of the mountain land.

Oh who hath stood on Snowden's side
And glanced o'er Mona's Island pride,
O'er looking fatal Moel y don,
But thought of those once there undone?
When the fierce invader's foreign band
Were crush'd by the sons of the mountain land.

Nor should it be forgotton that this is the heroic country

"Where battled the gallant Llewelyn
And the fame of wild Merlin rung,
Where counsell'd sage Catwg, most wise of men,
And the young Taliesin sung."

Thus much premised, with the presumption that the Author and Reader understand each other, here ends the Preface.

* The name of this mountain is often erroneously written Plimlimmon; in welsh it is Pum Lumon, *the five beacons*, but pronounced Pimlimon.

LLANDRINDOD WELLS.

Introduction—
The Celebrity of the Waters.

The Work I am now commencing is not of a nature for an author to pique himself on the pride of composition, or a fastidious affectation of exclusive originality, to the rejection of well-known and valuable matter contained in the various existing acounts of the places that will be here treated of; and I candidly assure my readers that I shall avail myself of every information of interest, to be met with, duly acknowledging its source, in addition to my own observations, and the oral communications of the talented and intelligent, wherever it may be my fortune to meet them.

George Saville Carey, in his "Balnea, or Watering places of England," observes, "there are partial accounts given of every place that I have spoken of, but they have been written by some inhabitant on the spot, or some hireling, who for the

sake of his interest, has been obliged to say something handsome, should the situation be ever so ugly; and given the qualities of each place, like a fair piece of white paper, without a spot, and with one insipid sameness of perfection. Every one of the places in question has its beauties and defects; therefore, like a landscape, the best way is to give each its natural colouring, so that, where the defects are introduced in a dark or dingy ground, the beauties are always seen with a better effect, when they have been thrown judiciously by the painter, as a contrast, into some advantageous situation, and where the excellencies are heightened by comparison."

Proceeding on a similar principle of independence, adherence to facts, and general fidelity of description, I hope, as I have two parties to please,—the FREQUENTERS, and the PROPRIETORS of Watering Places—that each will be liberal enough to acquit me of either an invidious preponderance or undue partiality, as censure or praise prevails in these well-meant pages, when the respective places come under consideration. Since Nature has thought proper to assign Aberystwyth a miserable harbour and

a shore of pebbles, to contrast its numerous excellencies, I conceive a native of that beautiful and ever-improving town ought not to view with a jaundiced eye the well-merited eulogies of "fair commercial Swansea," its capacious Italian-looking bay, and noble pier; or the delectable promenades on the sands of Tenby: nor should the natives of the latter places pretend to vie with Aberystwith for the grandeur of her coast or the interesting historical associations with Cardigan bay, and the adjacent country in the days of yore. Barmouth, Towyn, and other notable places, at present, less favored by the smiles of Fashion and the hand of Improvement, are equally worthy of attention to the votaries of Health, frequently more desirable to those whom Fortune has not blessed, as least governed on the predal system, under the iron reign of the harpy Extortion. Each, and all, have their merits and demerits; thus much premised, LLANDRINDOD WELLS, the most popular and far-famed of the spas of Wales, must not expect to be attired in a false dress, nor feel jealous of the more florid liveries, woodland beauties, and peculiar attractions of their immediate neighbours, the humbler rivalry of whose mineral waters still yield

to Llandrindod, the palm of excellence in a high degree.

After naming the principal springs and wells of Wales, known in his day, Doctor Linden observes, "but as yet they must all submit, and veil their glories to the more shining perfections of the waters of Llandrindod, whose superior merit they cannot (at least as far as we know) pretend to approach in any considerable degree of vicinity." The better part of a century has expired since the publication of this opinion, and were the Doctor still alive, probably he could make but few exceptions to qualify his first decision. But here Nature has played the miser, concealing cunningly her costliest treasures in the most ordinary, and least suspected places; a peculiarity that actually enhances the value of these celebrated waters, as the seat of their solitude by its still remoteness from the more gorgeous and tumultuous scenes, particularly accords with the mood and habit of the invalid. Were it not for the distant mountains that close the horizon, which, at the same time, are by no means either bold, elegant, or sublime, it would be difficult to conceive a spot more anti-cambrian; partaking,

however, of the general features of this country,—flat, yet slightly blessed with the charms of fertility, and rugged without the least pretension to a romantic character—that facinating charm! which, like the spirit of poesy, adorns as a garland the wild fantastic peaks of desolate sterility; and compensates to the wandering enthusiast, for richer vales and scenes more fair. Yet here—on a dull common, a swampy moorland of uninviting aspect—the apparent realm of the "slothful Naiad of the fens"—eccentric and capricious in her choice, the goddess Health has fixed her unimposing throne,

Her seat of sovereignty a heathy turf,
Her courtiers, unseen spirits of the air,
That poesy describes bright nymphs of cheer
Rose-lipp'd Breezes, that the faded cheek
Fan to rekindled ardour; her treasury,
Well sorted, cavern'd in the secret earth,
The glories of the mineral kingdom!
And then the subjects of the goddess Health,
The sons and daughters of the mountain land,
Romantic, interesting, generous Cambria.
No flower here invites the wanderer's eye,
But dark, repulsive, harsh and pleasureless,
Sullen turbaries and weedy marshes
Warn'd off the uninitiate and the vain,
Till wisdom's eye did pierce the shrewd disguise;

Her handmaid Science came, with eagle glance,
While Rumour told the wondrous tale to man.
And then came Taste, who smiled upon the spot
And deck'd with ornament the realm of Health.—
A crowded multitude the desart then,
Transform'd and animated, fill'd with voices;
While, terror-struck to hear the buz of men,
Solitude fled hence forever. The sons
Of smoky cities and their daughters wan,
Of bloated affluence, with fallen crest,
Oppress'd with various maladies, came here,
Drank, and were made whole! the voice miraculous
That bade men live, take up their bed and walk,
Did seem to live in these transcendant streams,
To bless the world again: men came from far,
Sad hopeless pilgrims to the fount of Health,
Groaning, on crutches,—but depart without—
Seiz'd wild the vessel, drank and were made whole!
And all did bless Llandrindod.

Thus "rude and rugged Radnor" has this one charm, that well compensates for Nature's niggardness in other gifts, the possession of Llandrindod Wells.

The pre-eminence of the salts produced from one of these Spas, the saline pump water, is particularly emphasised by the last-named author, in the following remarks, at the expence of the most celebrated

Salts on the continent and in England; viz., the Sedlitz, and the Epsom Salts. "About the time when Hoffman discovered the Saline Spring at Sedlitz, Stahl wrote a treatise on the practice of physic, in which under the article De Plethora, he says. "The new method of purging is a very good one, that is, by drinking the English bitter Salts of Epsom; but the Salts from the new-discovered Spring at Sedlitz are much superior to these, and the water itself far preferable to the Salts. Of the Epsom Salts, from an ounce to an ounce and half, dissolved in water is taken at once; but of the Sedlitz Salts, half the quantity is sufficient." As Hoffman has proved by experiments the Sedlitz Salts to be preferable in goodness to those of Epsom, I have tried the Salts of the Llandrindod Waters in every shape and method, and will venture to affirm *they excel those of Sedlitz.* I cannot therefore but wish the Llandrindod Waters were introduced and prescribed in London. For though it would be more eligible to drink this, as well as other mineral waters at the Spring-head, where it is most efficacious, yet I am persuaded it would answer many good purposes when

exported; and those patients whose business, or other circumstances would not permit their attendance on the spot, would not fail to receive considerable benefit, and find their account in drinking it at home."* The Doctor elsewhere observes, "the medicinal waters have ushered themselves into vogue by their own merit; no scribbling has been attempted in their favor, which I am well assured would never have availed here; for nothing but the extraordinary merit of their mineral contents could ever have rendered the place, from the condition it was in, fit for the reception of genteel company; their good effects are so conspicuous, that they give place to none in Europe; I beg pardon for the boldness of this expression, but I beseech my readers to weigh it coolly, and to point out a water in Europe that can challenge the pre-eminence, and I will then give up the assertion; but I declare I have seen, and made trial of, several medicinal mineral waters, in various parts of Europe, and have read of many more, that have been tried by more able hands, but as yet I have not met with any, of the same kind, that surpass these at Llandrindod." In the Gentleman's Magazine for October, 1748, the following poetic effusion on Llan-

drindod Wells, appeared; these lines, part of which are omitted, though possessing no great merit, at least evince the high estimation in which the waters were held in those days.

NATURE'S PHARMACOPEIUM.

Let England boast Bath's crowded springs,
Llandrindod happier Cambria sings,
A greater, though a modern name,
By merit rising into fame.
Let chemists bid the furnace glow,
Their panacea to bestow;
To sickness by the search betray'd,
While art denies the promis'd aid,
To nature's kinder power I trust,
To nature---ever kind and just!
To her Llandrindod I repair,
And find a panacea there.
Blest Spring! where pale disease may quaff
New life, till spleen and vapours laugh,
Till palsied nerves their tone resume,
And age regain its faded bloom.
Of half the pains that life endures,
Sad source, *a cold*, this water cures;
No more to naus'ous drugs apply,
Which make it worse to live than die.
Ease first, then health these fountains give,
And make it worth our while to live;

The vein for mirth, the taste for food,
By these continued or renewed.
Three streams a different aid bestow,
As sulphur, salts, and minerals flow,
Uniting all that med'cine claims
And answering nature's various aims.
'Tis ask'd disdainful, "what can please
In such sequester'd wilds as these?"
If russet heath or verdant vale
Or mountains that the skies assail,
Whence pendant woods the steep o'erlook,—
And downward tremble in the brook,—
If these can charm the wishful eye,
All these Llandrindod can supply.
Would you the bounding steed bestride,
Or drawn in chaise more idly ride,
No smoother ground can Lansdown * yield,
O'er all her spacious level field;
The river ‡ guiltless sport affords,
And trout and greyling leap your boards;
The ladies' fav'rite balls are here,
Here sportsmen chase the fallow deer,
And———

But enough! and as Hamlet says "somewhat too much of this." The comparison with Lansdown

* Near Bath. ‡ The river Ithon.

was as injudicious as the mention of "fallow deer," which only aids to recal the old adage,

> There's neither a palace, nor park, or deer,
> Nor either a man in Radnorshire,
> That's worth five hundred pounds a year,
> Except Sir William Fowler of Abbey Cwmhir.

However, in the present day, there are some wealthy residents in the county, who have long removed the stigma, if it were one, respecting the possession of five hundred a year.

THE TOPOGRAPHY, AIR, AND SOIL OF LLANDRINDOD.

LLANDRINDOD is a small parish in the county of Radnor, South Wales; its English name would be Trinity-Church. It is situated on a common which extends itself to three more parishes, and is within the Crown manor of Cantrev Melienydd; this common is about four miles in length, and rather more than half a mile broad. In that part which belongs to this parish stand the celebrated springs, four in number, the saline carbonated chalybeate, or rock water; the saline pump water; the sulphureous pump

water, and the eye water. The latter has been noticed only by Mr. Richard Williams, Surgeon of Aberystwith, who in 1817 published a valuable treatise on the waters. The nearest market town to Llandrindod, is Builth, which is situated seven miles to the south, a pleasant and romantic looking town on the banks of the Wye. It stands eight miles south east of Rhaiader, fifteen from new Radnor, and forty from Aberystwith, which fashionable bathing-place is the nearest sea-port town. The distances from other towns stand as follows:

	miles		miles
Knighton, Radnorshire	16	Brecon.....	22
Presteign, ditto.....	20	Hereford by Kington..	39
Kington, Herefordshire	30	Worcester	53
Newtown, Montgomerysh.	23	Shrewsbury	53
Hay, Breconshire	26	Birmingham	73
Llanwrtyd, by Newbridge	15		

Llandrindod church is situated 52. 17. north latitude, 3. 43. west longitude. It is a curacy, not in charge under the prebend, in the Cwmwd of Is Mynwyd, Cantrev or kindred of Elvel, now called Cefn Llys, in the patronage of Middleton Jones Esq. of Pen-y-Bont. According to the Diocesan report in 1809, the yearly value of this benefice, arising from the augmentation and fixed stipend, was

£35: 1s. The prebend of Llandrindod is valued in the King's books at £5: 8: 9, and is in the patronage of the Bishop of St. David's. The parish contains 2884 statute acres of land, of which, in 1817, it was calculated that 1500 acres were inclosed, and 1384 not inclosed, but as cottages often start up in the common, with their patches of garden land, and other enclosures occasionally take place, this point cannot be ascertained with much precision. The population is very limited; in 1801 it was computed at 192 persons; and in 1817 at 180; 87 males and 93 females; on which calculation time has made very little difference in the eight years which have since elapsed. From the commencement of the year 1800 to the close of 1816, there had been 66 births, 37 males, and 29 females; in which there occured 46 deaths; 26 males and 20 females. In 1803, the money raised by the parish rates amounted to about £127, at 6s: 9d, in the pound.

The land adjoining the upper, or eastern, end of Llandrindod common, is considerably planted, pleasant in appearance, open, and gradually ascending. The soil or surface of the earth is a blackish brown, and a particular fatness strikes our attention; we find

it, on examination, to be plentifully mixed with a mineral bitumen, whence it may easily be rendered capable of producing all kinds of vegetables natural to this climate: but if the culture be afterwards neglected, a barren moss over-runs it, of which the land about Llandrindod, according to its treatment, gives evident proof. "This mineral bitumen is *certainly the effect of the coals* that are contained in the mineral zonic of Llandrindod; and I doubt not in the least, but that beds of coal in this zonic may range a great way, and that they have their natural connection with other collieries in South Wales. The exhalations are of a salutary nature, and the vegetables produced endowed with good qualities, whence excellent cattle are reared here, while health and good natural strength are apparent in the natives of Llandrindod. This country produces excellent barley from which good ale is brewed, that is clear and transparent, agreeably bitter, and palatable. In short the malt liquor is an evidence of a healthy atmosphere, because it depends on the fermentation, upon which air, water and all the elements have an influence, and to such a degree, that if one of them is amiss, the whole fermented product

suffers. Now as that is not the case here, but a fine, wholesome, well-fermented malt liquor is produced, we may safely conclude that every thing thereabout is endowed with salutary properties." * A gradual rise of country completely encompasses the spacious plain of Llandrindod common. Towards the north east we are greeted with a striking contrast, as something like Cambrian scenery bursts upon us, when we look from the height towards Cefn Llys Castle. The summits of the surrounding hills are neither so steep or high as the generality of Welsh mountains, so that the air cannot stagnate, nor the plains be incessantly deluged with rain, as is too frequently the case in many beautiful parts of the Principality; because in this vicinity the mountains are not high enough to break the clouds as they ascend. "The air that ventilates this common is no where obstructed, but fans and re-fans from corner to corner from any point it may happen to blow. The air is so healthy as to suit the most delicate constitutions; for experience has confirmed and demonstrated, that the most weakly and consumptive, revive and become strengthened in it. The moist

* Dr. Linden.

sea air is entirely out of the question, by reason of the great distance, as well as on account of its height; for I reckon the lowest part of this common at least 150 feet, perpendicularly, higher than the sea at high water mark. Nevertheless, the air is neither too keen, nor too moist; for, as we have before observed, the situation is sufficiently elevated, that no bogs or fens, nor any other moist exhaling vapour can affect it. Nor is it too hot or sultry, but of a mild temperature: in short, it is such an air as is required for sickly and declining constitutions, and may justly be deemed the Montpelier of Great Britain." * "As a further proof of the salubrity of the air, it may be stated, that in thirteen years, two years passed without a single funeral; and during that period, the average number of annual deaths did not amount to three." § Antiquaries have not warranted the decision, whether Llandrindod was anciently a portion of the Roman Siluria, or of one of the other provinces. In the Welsh division it belonged to Powis, and with the hundred of Builth, formed a part of North Wales; but for a considerable period before, and after, the conquest, Builth,

* Dr. Linden. § Mr. Richard Williams.

and the lands between the Wye and Severn formed an independent territory, possessed by Elystan Glodrydd, an ancestor of the present Lord Dynevor, and head of one of the five royal tribes of Wales. It was called the territory of Ferleg, until gradually subdued by the Earls of March, from whom, in the reign of Henry the Sixth, it became vested in the Crown. Thus Llandrindod still gives the title of Earl of March to the noble family of Lennox.

REMAINS OF ANTIQUITY ABOUT LLANDRINDOD.

For yielding information on this subject, and guidance to the places where the different objects stand, the Rev. Mr. Jones of Llanbongan, curate of Llandrindod, a venerable and intelligent old gentleman, is the most capable in the neighbourhood.

The most remarkable of the several ruins and ancient fortifications in the vicinity of Llandrindod, is the Great Camp at Cwm Radnor. Its Roman name is not known, but its Welsh one is Castell Collwyn, from the hazel-brake with which it is overgrown.

It is a square enclosure, containing one hundred and twenty yards, surrounded by a wall of hammered, or rough hewn stone. The pretorium is very visible, and within it may be traced the remains of partition walls. The camp is guarded on the west side by a double trench. It is situate upon an eminence on the west bank of the river Ithon, about a mile and a half from Llandrindod, and commands a fine view of the country. From this station appear the the remains of a Roman road towards Breconshire. It crosses a ford in the river Ithon, near Caebach, and takes a southerly direction over the common, through the fishpond at Llanerch-y-dirion, within a hundred yards of the Rock House Inn, in a direct line over the other commons towards the cultivated lands, and crosses the river Wye in the neighbourhood of Llechrhyd Castle, about a mile and a half above the town of Builth. It is conjectured, on strong grounds, that Llechrhyd Castle is of Roman origin; the absence of any feature characteristic of British or Norman style, its contiguity to the Roman road, and inconsiderable distance from Cwm, speak well to that point. At irregular distances along the line of the Roman road are many small

camps, scattered over the common; antiquaries conjecture they were used as *Campi æstivi;* but from their unequal disposition they could not have formed one military alignment, and must have been placed wherever it suited the convenience of the soldiers who may have been employed here in making the road, or clearing the country; and as they would have contained, had they been all occupied at once, at least two or three legions, it is probable that some were deserted, and new ones formed further on, according to the progress made by the workmen; for they do not deviate much from the straight line, except for the purpose of gaining the high ground. It is supposed they continued for several miles, but have been demolished by the cultivation of the country and the growth of trees, as the road itself has disappeared. These Camps are eighteen in number, and extend nearly two miles: some are not more than sixteen paces distant, and others three or four hundred. Each camp or station is square, with obtuse angles, and generally from twenty to thirty yards within the agger, with four entrances, one on each side, and opposite to each entrance is a mound; the agger is five or six yards thick, formed of earth

intermixed with stone occasionally, but nothing like a wall: surrounded by a small trench, from which it was thrown up, except at the entrances, where both are discontinued. So low is it in all of them, that the most perfect is not above two feet high, and some are so obscured by time that they may be walked over without being even seen.

Cefn Llys, * or the Court-house hill, is the remains of a British fortress, strongly fortified by nature, being nearly surrounded by the river Ithon, on the lofty banks of which it stands. Its demolition has been so complete, that nothing beyond its mere site is distinguishable. It is mentioned by Camden as in ruins, when he wrote, about the year 1585. On the north side it lies open to a large and dreary common. This castle, together with the lordship of Melienydd, was once the property of the Mortimers, Earls of March, having been erected by an ancestor of that family; and with the exception of occasional interruptions by the Welsh Princes, and attainder for rebellion, it continued in their possession till the time of Henry the Sixth, when

* The English reader, to whom Welsh pronunciation is difficult, may call it *Keven Leece*, the nearest sound to the original.

Edmund, the last Mortimer, Earl of March, died. It then devolved to his brother in law, Richard, Earl of Cambridge, and upon his attainder, became again vested in the Crown.

There are two druidical stones upon the common, at some distance from each other, and several tumuli, five of which are placed close together, these have been opened, and were found to contain human bones, and pieces of half burnt charcoal, covered with a heap of loose stones. Pennant, in his tour through Wales, observes, "the custom of consuming the bodies of the deceased by fire, and preserving the ashes in an urn, is one of very ancient date. It was in use with the polished nations, with the Greeks & Romans, as well as the most barbarous. The ancient Germans practiced this rite, as appears from Tacitus. The Druids observed the same, with the wild addition of burying with the body whatsoever was of use in this life, under the notion that they would be wanted in the next; and in confirmation of this, arms, and many singular things of unknown use, are to this day discovered beneath the places of ancient sepulture."

The foundations of a very ancient church or chapel, called Llanfaelon, some years ago were dug up in the middle of a corn-field at Llandrindod; but beyond the name no account of it remains.

A silver thumb ring, some years ago, was dug up in a place called the Castle Garden. It is conjectured to have been the signet ring of one of the Welsh Princes who resided at Cefn Llys; it bore an impression resembling an hour-glass, on either side an olive-branch, gracefully pending, and nearly meeting at the top, the whole encompassed at the edge with a kind of chain border. Without pretending to divine its original meaning, I conceive it admirably formed to character the simple sentence of "peaceful hours." It is now in the possession of Mrs. Edwards of Greenfields, a lady to whom Llandrindod owes much of its present revived celebrity.

To the east, above Llandrindod church, is a very ancient lead mine, which has been worked as late as the year 1797, but is now deserted, though it is probable that the ore is by no means exhausted. It is supposed the works were suspended in consequence of a gush of water, for an attempt had been made to carry a level under them. "The galena, or

sulphuret of lead," Mr. Richard Williams remarks, "may be frequently met with, interspersed with calcarious spar."

Immediately adjoining Llandrindod church, surrounded by a grove of sycamore, stands a farm-house retaining the designation of Llandrindod Hall, a name once appertaining to the grand hotel and splendid establishment of Mr. Grosvenor, long the admiration and wonder of this country. The present tenement, though a spacious farm-house, was merely the size of one of the dining rooms, on the site of which it stands, the only remaining vestige of its existence; a circumstance to be attributed to its having been built principally of wood.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LLANDRINDOD.

The acknowledged resemblance to Switzerland, so often alluded to by the admirers of Wales, though very flattering to our vanity, is no less just, and the following paralled drawn by Dr. Linden, author of the first treatise on Llandrindod Waters, though quaintly written, sets the point in a clear view. "Of all the nations of Europe, none have been more

diligent and careful than the Switzers, in examining the nature and properties of the several waters, that issue, in great plenty, and ooze out of the hills, rocks, and mountains of their country. This laborious & indefatigable people seem to have entertained a just sense of those incessant floods of bounty, with which kind Providence has blessed their land, and have therefore employed all their study, and extended their utmost efforts to make the best advantages of Nature's favours, by rendering the genuine productions of their country subservient to the health and interest of the inhabitants.

Dr. Scheuchzer has given us a copious description of the nature & qualities of the Swiss Water, grounded on facts, and drawn from experience, in two large volumes quarto, in which he has been so accurate and particular, that hardly one spring has escaped his notice.

If a Man were inclinable to draw parallels between distant countries, on the various parts of this our Earth, I know of no two that bear a more striking likeness to each other than Switzerland and Wales. The external superfices of both countries

are rugged, strong and cragged, loaded with rocky hills, and mountains of vast extent and altitude. These Welsh mountains (as it were in allusion to the Swiss), are termed the British Alps : and exhibit a further resemblance of the Alps in Switzerland, in that they are cloathed with similar kinds of herbage; produce plants and vegetables of the same nature, and nurture and raise them to a like degree of virtue and perfection. As therefore these circumstances could hardly exist, without a remarkable similitude between the soil, air, and atmosphere, of the two countries, may we not by a parity of reasoning conclude, that the springs and fountains of Wales have some degree of affinity one to another! Nature seems to have indicated, by the near resemblance of the outward aspects of these two Countries, in all their various wildness of dress & asperity of surface, that there is a proportional agreement in their internal parts ; that their wombs are pregnant with the like hidden treasures ; and that the same rich juices & salutary fluids are copiously circulated through the veins of both. Hence it will be no wonder, if, in process of time, springs of several kinds of water shall emerge into use and repute in

Wales of the like nature, and endowed with the same qualities with those already known and celebrated in Switzerland". Had the Doctor been better acquainted with the history and genius of this people, he might have extended his comparison, as the Welsh bear the strongest resemblance to the Swiss for a blameless simplicity of character, an ardent and passionate love of their native country, heart-moving poetry in its praise, and a devoted and invincible courage in defending it: as the numerous records of the "olden day" beautifully, but often fatally evince: not an age has passed during the prevalence of foreign invasions and neighbouring aggressions, but Wales has produced her heroes and defenders. Piety found here her truest votaries, and Liberty her most virtuous champions; in weal and woe, success and failure, Wales was ever rich in triumphant chieftains, or generous martyrs of unavailing patriotism.

The anticipations of Dr. Linden respecting the discovery and appreciation of mineral springs in this country, have been amply fulfilled and justified; and indeed a kind of rage for such discoveries has become manifest, furnishing a remarkable contrast to

the apathy of former years, which do not even record a date of the first discovery of Llandrindod Wells: for in 1755, this author observes, "How long these waters, through their own merit have been in repute and medical use cannot be ascertained, for all the inquiry I could make amounts to this, that they have been used time immemorial". It seems from the same authority that about the year 1696, the Vaughans, a considerable family in Herefordshire, frequented these wells, stayed some weeks and used the waters with satisfaction; but in what manner, or for what disorders, there is not the least account given; and that "at all times in the summer season there has been a resort of the common people in great troops, who made use of these waters on all occasions; the success attending this vulgar use has not only continued the annual pilgrimage to the fountain of health, but has greatly encreased it". Genteel company did not visit here till about the year 1735, which in consequence of the discovered merits of the spas in numerous cures, increased yearly, to an amazing number, so as to need an increase of the houses of accommodation, which were then, it may be presumed, but few, and incapable of

affording the entertainment requisite for the opulent and fashionable, or of even sheltering such an ever-multiplying concourse; many were therefore obliged to depart on the day of their arrival, unblessed by the aid of Hygeia's stream, or bespeak the first vacancy of a lodging, and return again. In the year 1749, an enterprizing individual, a Mr. William Grosvenor of Shrewsbury, with a taste and spirit that does honor to his memory, and has forever associated his name with these waters, commenced what may be called his princely undertaking, which he soon accomplished on a most liberal scale. We are told he "took leases of several houses, and not only repaired and fitted them up at a vast expense, but caused, additional buildings to be erected, especially one, which was spacious enough to contain several hundreds of visitors, in which he was assisted by his brother-in-law, Mr. Ingol: here were then accommodations for the invalid, of whatever rank and distinction, field amusements for the healthy, while balls, billiards, and regular assemblies, varied the pastimes of the gay and fashionable. The grounds were not only ornamented in a style of elegance, but on them were discernable the finished

suggestions of the most polished taste. There were fishponds, always well stocked, and what may now appear incredible, swans of varied plumes gracing their surface. The remains of three of those ponds are yet to be seen. Another source of amusement here was a cockpit, where frequent cockfights took place. Regular race grounds were cleared and levelled, to the great delight of the votaries of the turf, by whom they were in frequent requisition. Their remains are still traceable on the hills. The utmost regularity and systematic management prevailed in the interior of the house; so that punctual attendances, elegant entertainment, and a succession of varied amusements gave this place the winning charm of irresistible fascination. Like a metropolitan hotel, it had attached to it both neat and handsome shops for milliners, glovers, hair dressers, and all descriptions of persons likely to be useful to the visitors. In short, Llandrindod Hall bore some resemblance to a market town. The country people, far and near, from the surrounding neighbourhood, to a considerable distance, flocked hither daily, and ever found a ready market for their various commodities. In the warmth of his heart Dr. Linden

exclaims, "if ever a projector deserved to be immortalized it is Mr. William Grosvenor, for his merit in bringing this place to such perfection as a receptacle for the sick; in my opinion a statue ought to be erected to his memory: he still goes on with the most expensive improvements, and provides this place with every thing that can be desired or thought of".

The saline water was in medical use, as before observed, about the year 1696; it afterwards, as it could not be employed for domestic purposes, lay quite unnoticed and nearly forgotten, until 1736, when accident revived its dormant celebrity. Mrs. Jenkins, the tenant's wife, who previous to Dr. Linden's time was known as a kind of country doctress, and directress of all the medical spas at Llandrindod, perceived one evening a light proceeding from the inflammable vapours playing round the spot, and being a superstitious woman, she was induced to make a search, in hopes of finding a treasure; but was much disappointed on discovering nothing but a saline spring, a treasure which ultimately proved of inestimable value, but at first little thought of. However its virtues becoming more generally known, it turned out the immediate means of raising to

comparative affluence both herself, her family and successors. Mrs. Whitall, the late tenant's wife, is a great grand-daughter of Mrs. Jenkins. The sulphureous spring, also owes its discovery to Mrs. Jenkins. Her daughter had been afflicted about five years with an ulcerated head, brought on by a fever. Observing that the neighbouring sulphureous water cured similar complaints, she caused a search to be made nearer home. Her endeavours were requited with the discovery, and the discovery with the success she sought, for she not only cured her own child, but did a great deal of good to others.

The eye water, or Fynon cwm y góv, (the well of the blacksmith's dingle) obtained its name and was brought into notice by a blacksmith, who was accidentally cured of an ophthalmia, by washing his eyes with the water; "the eye water", observes Mr. Richard Williams, "differs considerable from the others, in containing sulphuric acid in a combined state."

In August 1754, Dr. Diederick Wesse Linden, a very eminent and popular German physician,

arrived at Llandrindod. He was well known in the world of science as an author, and had visited all the principal medicinal mineral springs in Europe. He went to Llandrindod, "invited thither by the fame of these waters, in order to reap the benefits of those good qualities and medicinal virtues with which report had, (and as he afterwards found, so deservedly) furnished them". At that time he was afflicted with an inveterate scurvy ; the complaint had fallen into his hands, where it broke out, and ulcerated in a very painful and troublesome degree; he had likewise suffered by noxious mineral damps, contracted by analysing minerals. After a previous examination of the waters he says "the result of this scrutiny was, that I chose the saline pump water for my remedy; I had not drank it quite four weeks, when, I thank God, I found my disorder cured, to my own unspeakable comfort, and the great surprise of all my friends and acquaintance. During my stay at the wells, I had the pleasure likwise of witnessing their good effects on several others, particularly on one patient, labouring under a total weakness proceeding from a variety of disorders. By the use of the rock water he recovered to an amazing

degree of strength and vigour. Another scorbutic patient I had the pleasure to see recover from an inveterate and tedious distemper, to a surprising degree of health, by drinking the saline pump water for about the same space of time as I drank it myself. A third, who had long been violently afflicted with an arthritic disorder, that had taken its seat in the stomach, was perfectly relieved by the use of the sulphur water".

As a grateful return for so great a blessing as the restoration of his health, and to make the healing properties of the waters more extensively useful, and more generally known, he commenced his analysis of them, which was publised in 1756, under the title of "A treatise on the three medicinal mineral waters of Llandrindod, in Radnorshire, with some remarks on mineral and fossil mixtures in their native beds and veins, at least as far as respects their influence on water.

Multum diuque desideratum."

This work is as honorable to his heart, as creditable to his talent; and throughout its pages unites the accuracy and acuteness of the philosopher, with the generous benevolence of the philanthropist. Although so many years have elapsed since its pub-

lication, the opinions of the vistors to these spas are decidedly in its favour. The many extracts from this work which will here meet the reader's eye, requires therefore, no apology: and I conceive it no invaluable duty discharged to the public, to bring their old favorite, though in new attire, once more before them, who deserves a better fate than, from the scarcity of the book, the oblivion which seemed ready to engulph him.

The liberality of Dr. Linden's character is strikingly pourtrayed in the following picture of a Physician, a picture, beautifully drawn, and although by the hand of a foreigner, deserving a permanent stand in English literature, which many of the faculty in our own country would do well to study; though others may see in it but a portrait of themselves.

"Let no one think that this is to lead the patient into unnecessary expenses, which may have been sufficiently enhanced already by sickness, the journey, and other preparations; since, according to my notion of a true Physician, one who is capable of acting up to the dignity of his character, he ought to be endowed with all imaginable tenderness, with a certain generosity and nobleness of soul, that will carry him above mean actions. He ought to be so compassionate, as to have a fellow feeling, and participate in every affliction his patient is troubled with. Such a sense will extort advice, and oblige him to give his counsel *gratis*, to every indigent complainant. He will even seek occasion to oblige those who have a spirit to appear genteel in narrow circumstances. It will afford him a greater pleasure to refuse his fees from such, than to receive them from the most opulent; and the same generous and humane disposition will a conceal the objects of his generosity."

A participation in the afflictions of patients here recommended and especial tenderness towards the fair sex are well illustrated in Dr. L.'s own remarks throughout his treatise; but the following extract from it, places this amiable foreigner, whose name deserves ever to be associated with Llandrindod Wells, in the best point of view.

"The hysteric passion is a proteus-like disease, and includes a large train of symtoms, yet is a disorder too much slighted, and often ridiculed by those who cannot account for its perplexing symptoms. The poor sufferer is frequently deemed whimsical, fantastical, and often censured with the opprobrious appellation of ill-natured. It were to be wished it was so, and that the paroxisms depended upon her will and temper; but the case stands far otherwise. I have often been surprised that any one can behold these amiable beings, this lovely and most desirable part of the creation, tortured, racked, convulsed, and almost agonized, and not be struck with terror and compassion: such certainly must be divested of all humanity. The disease is a real one, and the objects merit our utmost efforts to relieve them and subdue their foe."

Mr. Grosvenor's establishment continued long in a very flourishing state, and attained, to the fullest extent, the patronage and popularity it so well merited. when the American war broke out, and the subsequent hostilities with France drained the country of a great portion of the young and gay, Llandrindod gradually declined, and at length became almost deserted. That it should so long have remained dormant is partly to be attributed to a

new sprung taste, or fashion, for visiting the coasts, and a favourable opinion entertained by the public of the efficacy of sea bathing. The experience of mankind, however, has at length convinced them of the fatal effects on the consumptive and delicate of habit, produced by the harshness of the sea air; and of late years Llandrindod has again become a place of refuge, comfort, and recovery, to the invalid. Under new auspices Improvement makes rapid strides towards its former celebrity for elegant accommodations and fashionable attendance. Llandrindod Hall was open for the reception of visitors as late as the year 1787; and it is within the memory of many elderly persons of the present day, that when the Flintshire militia were once on their march, they halted one evening at Builth, when that town was rather smaller than it now is, and were greatly disappointed on learning its incapacity to afford lodgings for so large a number. Consequently they marched on to Llandrindod where they immediately found the accommodation they sought, for five hundred men, it is said, besides women and children, in Llandrindod Hall alone: but that number is doubtless much over-rated. The site of this mansion is adjoining the parish Church,

on pleasant grounds above Llandrindod Common, marked by several large sycamores, and between them a farm house, retaining the designation of Llandrindod Hall, although the whole tenement is but a superstructure on one of the dining parlours. The obliging mistress of this farm will point to the inquiring stranger the various parts on the adjoining green, once occupied by parlours, billard, dancing, and sitting, rooms; the bar, the cellar in the rock, and the kitchen. On its demolishment and removal of the remaining materials, she will tell him of no less than a score and a half of fire-grates, which she saw taken down then; and shew the exact places where stood the shops of the glover, the hair-dresser, and the milliners; interspersed with many amusing anecdotes, and sighs for the days gone by, with all their interesting association on that spot.

Dr. Linden's treatise, purchased with avidity, became scarce, and remained long out of print: one known copy only remaining, in the possession of the late tenant in the pump-house; thus a field was opened to speculation in a new work, which became a great desideratum. Accordingly, in 1817 Richard Williams Esq. an eminent medical practitioner at

Aberystwith, popular in his profession, and well known as a pupil to Sir Astley Cooper, published a work under the following title. "An Analysis of the medicinal waters of Llandrindod, in Radnorshire, South Wales; with observations on the diseases to which they are applicable, and directions for their use. To which is prefixed a topographical account of the place. By Richard Williams, Surgeon, Honorary Member of the Physical Society of Guy's Hospital, London.

"Scire potestates Aquarum, usumque libendi."
VIRGIL.

This work was published by subscription and dedicated to the late Princess Charlotte of Wales; well received by the public, and possessed every claim to their attention, with this especial advantage over its predecessor, the combined scientific attainments of the present enlightened age, from the great revolution, improvements, and discoveries in modern chymistry; which has enabled Mr. Williams to render us a very perfect and complete analysis. Being favoured with that gentleman's permission to reprint his work, at present scarce, I thankfully avail

myself of his politeness, gratified at being fortunate enough to present the public with matter, already so well received by all to whom its merits were known. Thus will they have at once before them, the only two accounts of Llandrindod Wells ever published, with all such additional information that time, improvement, and research, can claim for record, in the present work, "fashioned to the varying hour." Mr. Williams observes, "about the year 1769, Dr. Berkenhout, in his "Outlines of Great Britain and Ireland." and Dr. Donald Monro in his "Essay on Mineral Waters," 1770, have very briefly made some remarks on the analysis of Dr. Linden; but from my enquiries, his appears to have been the only original work which has hitherto been published on the Llandrindod Waters."

As Wales has been considerably benefited by adopting the suggestions of Dr. Linden in mineralogy, as well as by his analysis, we owe it to his fame, which every principle of justice and generosity compels us to protect, and without pretence to the character of his biographer to give an additional notice of him here. His letter to the Earl of Halifax on the Chevron, or Bru Waters, published in the

Gentleman's Magazine for December 1751, proves his intimacy with that nobleman, while the numerous names of the nobility and gentry, who were subscribers to his work, evince their patronage, and the estimation in which he was held in England, who, to her credit be it said, has not added him to the ample list of the neglected sons of science and genius. He wrote English very fairly for a foreigner; always comprehensive, without affecting the abstruse and technical phraseology of science more than necessary. The occasional coarseness of expression, bordering upon indelicacy, to be sometimes found in his work on Llandrindod, is to be excused on that score, and from the want of a more perfect acquaintance with the idioms of our language, which in his day had not acquired the polish which distinguishes our own era. His pages are illustrated generally with quotations from Stahl, Hoffman, and the most esteemed of the medical writers of Germany. We are indebted to him for introducing the means of rendering the Welsh lead malleable, and fit for all the purposes of the plumber, which, previous to his time, had been rejected by the London refiners, on account of its brittleness, and therefore found useful

only to be exported in large quantities to China, where it was held in the highest estimation, and wrought into those fine & thin plates with which tea chests are lined. He recommended the following method of rendering the Welsh lead equal to any other. "Take of tallow, one pound; bees-wax, half a pound; small wood charcoal, (such as is sold in London to kindle fires) finely powdered, one pound. Melt the tallow and wax on the fire, then add by degrees the charcoal, keeping the mass continually agitated till cold, and reposit for use. Of this mixture take about two or three ounces, and rub the inside of the iron vessel in which you intend to fuse your lead, on the top of which, when in the state of fusion, throw in about the same quantity. This greasy unctious substance will extend itself over all the surface of the melted metal; the plumbers by this method will be recompensed for their labours; none of the lead will exhale in white fumes, a circumstance which not only causes a consumption of the metal, but also greatly impairs the health of the labourers; nor is the expense large, for six ounces of the above will suffice for four or five hundred weight of metal." *

* Gentleman's Magazine, 1752.

The Doctor's other publications are "Letters on the knowledge and improvement of Mining, 2s. Keith, Feb. 1753. Three letters on Mining and Smelting, inscribed to the Right Hon. the Earl of Halifax, 1s. 6d. Aug. 1750. An experimental dissertation on the nature, contents, and virtues, of the Hyde Saline purging water, commonly called the Hyde Spa, near Cheltenham, in Gloucestershire, London, 1751. A treatise on the origin, nature, and virtues, of Chalybeate Waters, natural Hot Baths, Mineral Waters of England and Germany."

In consequence of the improvements in the science of Chymistry a more modern analysis will of course be preferable to Dr. Linden's, but his laborious researches, and almost enthusiastic partiality towards Llandrindod Wells, for their experienced virtues, and his cautious professional advice on the numerous cases in which their remedy is efficacious, has endeared his memory to the invalid, and given his treatise a lasting hold of public estimation. This meagre history may now be said to be brought down to the present year, 1825; a few weeks previous to the season of which, the late tenant Mr. Whitall left the Pump-house, which had been kept

by a succession of his wife's ancestors about two centuries, both as a farm and house of entertainment for the visitors, in which he was succeeded by Mr. Owen.

PRESENT ACCOMMODATIONS, BOARDING AND LODGING HOUSES.

Llandrindod, as before observed, has now for some years been gradually emerging from the obscurity it had fallen into since the American war, and the decline of Mr. Grosvenor's establishment; the celebrity of which, for comfort, attendance, and general accommodation, if not in capaciousness and extent, will assuredly be soon rivalled by the PUMP HOUSE.

The principal lodging and boarding house here is called the PUMP HOUSE; it stands on the upper end of Llandrindod common, surrounded with pleasure walks, and embosomed in a little grove, about a quarter of a mile from the site of Llandrindod Hall, and by the peculiarity of its situation is better sheltered than Mr. Grosvenor's house could ever possibly have been.

Thus, by its convenient situation, the boarders at this house are but about forty yards from the saline spa, as many more from the sulphureous spring, and about a quarter of a mile from the Rock house, so called from the rock or chalybeate water by which it stands; while the church is within the pleasant walk of a quarter of a mile. Were it my task to describe this place a twelve-month hence, the summer of 1826, a better field would present itself, but at present I can only do so by anticipation, in which I fear I can scarcely do justice to the liberality and taste which actuates the proprietor, Middleton Jones Esq., and the judicious management of the new tenant Mr. Owen in their embryo plans of improvement. The rooms in the Pump-house are capacious and lofty, and throughout all, from the well carpeted and decorated parlours to the airy Bed-chambers, both comfortably and genteelly furnished. The beds and their hangings, no inconsiderable items on the list of real comforts, are highly creditable to Mrs. Owen and her daughters, and claim unqualified praise. In addition to two large parlours, the house contains seven bedrooms, but including all, in different parts of this establishment here are nearly

thirty beds. Attached to the house are good coach-houses and stables, where a carriage and an excellent stud of ponies will be kept for the accommodation of the public. A new assembly room on an extensive scale, and a billiard room will be speedily built; while numerous plantations, new walks, with seats and bowers, will form part of the forth-coming innovating arrangements, to take place within a year. We anxiously hope these spirited additions and improvements will be met by the public with the countenance and patronage they deserve, and prolong their stay here beyond the usual termination of the season.

The Rock-house Inn, near which stands the chalybeate spa, a neat and pleasant looking boarding house, is kept by Mr. Smith. It is situated on the side of a romantic little dell, the sloping side of it is laid out as a garden, in which are pleasant but confined walks. On the opposite side of the dell rises a neat plantation of young trees, which promise at a future time to yield both shade, shelter, and ornament to this agreeable spot, from which we have a very pleasing glimpse of the river Ithon, winding its devious course. About a hundred yards

hence the Roman road may be traced over the common in a direction towards Builth. The accommodations here are creditable and the attendance good and punctual. The house contains two parlours, or as they otherwise distinguish them, a dining parlour and a withdrawing room for the ladies; with commodious and lofty bed-rooms. This is the only boarding-house at Llandrindod built entirely of stone. The others, as well as the neighbouring farm houses are principally formed of wood, as indeed was Mr. Grosvener's once celebrated establishment. I have often wondered at the custom of erecting houses of wood, so prevalent at Llandrindod, Rhaiader, and many parts of Radnorshire, a county, whatever may be its other deficiencies, abounding at least with stone; but it seems, bare as the country now appears, timber was once actually an incumbrance here, as in the memory of many old persons large woods have been cut down, and, unfortunately for the benefit and appearance of the country, without the precaution of re-planting. Thus, from a lack of public spirit among the land proprietors, strangers "spy out the nakedness of the land."

The Llanerch or Llanerch-y-dirion Inn, stands on a flat part of the common, occupying a central situation between the Rock-house and the Pump-house; from the former it is about three hundred yards, and from the latter something more. It is a neat and comfortable boarding house, kept by Mr. Betts, whose obliging conduct and general assiduity, with that of his wife and daughter, has secured him a large portion of the public patronage. This house contains two parlours, and many good bed chambers, where they make up no less than twelve beds. In addition to these three boarding houses, all the neighbouring farms become lodging houses in the visiting season, and generally yield good attention, and comfortable beds; where those who prefer private lodgings and to board themselves, may be accommodated. The names of the principal of these farms are as follow: Llanvawr, The Gorse, Noyadd, Trevonel, Caebach, Dolberthog, and Llandrindod Farm, which stands on the site of one of the parlours of Llandrindod Hall.

Towards the southern end of Llandrindod common, in the adjoining parish of Dysserth, about two miles from the Pump-house, is a small village called

Howey, from the stream that parts the parishes, over which is a bridge. There is a public-house here, called the Bridge End Inn, kept by a blacksmith, named Price, where beds are to be had, and I believe, decent accommodation on an emergency. There are a few small shops here also. All these houses with the exception of one or two, were built by this blacksmith, to whom great credit is due for his spirit. He has added much to the pleasantness of the spot by a small plantation, which corresponds well with the neighbouring groves planted by the late James Crummer Esq. whose house is near, almost hidden by the trees, and inhabited by his widow. Connected with this place Mr. Williams has the following remarks. "Several springs have been observed in the yard of the Rock-house, of a similar nature to those in use; and about three years ago (1814) in sinking a pump at Howey, the seat of James Crummer Esq., a sulphureous water was discovered which contains

Muriate of Soda,
————Lime,
Carbonate of Iron,
————Lime,

united with carbonic acid gas, and sulphureted

hydrogen. These ingredients do not however, exist in sufficient quantity to constitute a medicinal water. All the springs in the vicinity of Llandrindod contain lime; and the only one in which I could not detect it, was a small well in the garden at Howey, not far from the sulphureous water. This is a very pure water, and suspends only a little muriate of soda, or common salt."

RIDES, DRIVES, AND WALKS ABOUT LLANDRINDOD. COACHES &c.

There is a work to be had of Booksellers with the plausible title of "A collection of Welsh Tours;" than which, to say the least, there cannot be a more useless book put into a traveller's hand. It abounds with inaccuracies, and misleads at every step, with no fault of the respective authors, who have long gone the final tour "from which no traveller returns;" yet mercenary and unprincipled Booksellers are to be found continually republishing the early Welsh Tours, made anterior to all the modern improvements which have taken place within the greater part of a century. These facetious gentlemen sometimes amuse us with marvellous tales, utterly

unknown to the natives of the country, who are greatly astonished to hear of the ancient inhabitants of their mountains, the Goats, still browzing on the rocks. At the present day I believe there is not a topographical work in existence but what describes Aberystwith with a Gothic church, although the sea, about a century since, has advanced beyond the site of such a structure; a part of the yard of which, in the memory of some of the elder inhabitants could be traced from the bones frequently washed up by the waves. The present church is a small structure built by subscription a few years ago. I was led into these remarks by reading a passage from one of these antiquated pages, connected with our present subject, which, as it elicits some objects of contrast to the present state of things, I beg leave to transcribe. It will be observed, the tourists are on their way from Newtown to Llandrindod. "Four miles carried us "to the summit of a mountain, the ascent to which "begins at Newtown: the path over this mountain "is intricate and boggy; but we were fortunate "enough to find it, though the disagreeable uncer- "tainty of being in the right track preyed upon our "spirits for many miles. We afterwards dipped into

"two or three Radnorshire dales, and arrived at "Llandrindod. We had many views of old intrench- "ments from this route; but they afforded small "relief to the tediousness of crawling through vile "roads and a melancholy waste. The Wells of Llan- "drindod are situated in a wild extensive heath, "some spots of which are rarely enlivened with a "few trees, and small cultivated enclosures. The "mountains bound the dreary prospect at a dis- "tance." It is truly gratifying to witness the change wrought in these latter years; the "melancholy wastes" are considerably cheered and vivified by inclosures and plantations; and the "vile roads" between Newtown and Llandrindod are become excellent ones, destined however, to further and immediate improvement, for the reception of the mail coach, which it is said will run over Llandrindod common towards Builth and Brecon. A Van is already established, and passes this way weekly, thus affording a direct communication between North and South Wales, Manchester, and Carmarthen. This may be useful information to the visitors of Llandrindod, Park Wells, Builth, or Llanwrtyd, for the conveyance of their trunks, goods, and necessaries.

Since writing the above a coach has been started, to run between Brecon, Newtown, Welshpool, Chester, and Manchester; and it is expected its route will extend to Swansea,

The banks of the river Elain, beyond Rhaiader afford a pleasant ride towards Cwm Elain. The bare overhanging rocks in this direction are very romantic. Ruggedness, it is true, is a particular characteristic here, but the traveller who is effeminate enough to whine his complaints of such trivial circumstances, should stay at home. The lover of "Nature in her wildest dress" will pursue his route through Wales in the vigorous spirit of our prince of modern poets.

"Away ye gay landscapes! ye gardens of roses!
In you let the minions of luxury rove,
Give me the rocks where the snow-flake reposes,
For ah! they are sacred to Freedom and Love.
England! thy beauties are tame and domestic
To one who has roved o'er the mountains afar,
Oh for the crags that are wild and majestic
The dark frowning glories of deep Loch na Garr."

BYRON.

RHAIADER GWY.

Rhaiader Gwy, stands 8 miles North-west of Llandrindod, and 178 miles from London. Its English name would be *the Fall of the Wye*, from Rhaiader, a cataract, and Gwy, the welsh for Wye. That designation is very inapplicable in these days, as from the continual running of the river in the past centuries, its rocky bed is worn away, and the water-fall, once, perhaps, magnificent, is at present reduced to a few feet, and scarcely observable. It was formerly the chief village in Maelienydd, but at present a market town, divided into four streets, forming a cross, and bearing great resemblance to the town of Cloyne in Ireland, a plan common to many towns in North Wales. The predilection of the dignitaries of the law (as well as of the church) for good cheer, who are proverbially said to "hang the guiltless rather than eat their mutton cold;" seems singularly verified in the fate of poor Rhaiader; where, in the time of Henry VIII, the quarter sessions were held, according to an act of parliament passed in that reign, but soon repealed on account of its alledged poverty, and inability to afford the *necessary accommodation* and dignity

required by the judges, who then resided at an old house called Pen-y-Porth, "*Head of the Gate.*" It is supposed to have declined still, from that time, for what could be expected from so graceless a town that could not yield goodly fare to the sages of the law!—whether the fault was in the viands or the cook, whether a limited quantity, or quality of fish, flesh, and fowl, or lack of culinary skill in the dressing them that deprived Rhaiader of its dignity is not precisely ascertained; but its fate presents an awful moral, and serious warning, to other towns favoured with judicial visits; an honor that many towns of Wales most ungratefully hold in slight regard, as they very uncourteously abrogate the period of their stay, by having no criminals; a circumstance that emphatically marks their attributed absence of civilization, and punishes accordingly, by imposing the tax of white ribbons for the Judges & Barristers: an antediluvian badge, 'tis true, grown elsewhere out of use, emblematic of innocence; which it is thought a more immediate connexion with the English, as at Merthyr, and the manufacturing districts will effectually banish, and they will consequently, in time, become rational creatures. Oh the beauty and ex-

cellence of civilization! the merits of which struck me very forcibly some time ago while listening to the expressive eloquence of a Merthyr waggoner, or carter, towards his horses well translated into Welsh. His oaths were not quite so modish, perhaps as Bob Acres's, but certainly as curious and more forcible, as he seemed to have studied Shakespeare's advice to the players.

"Suit the action to the word, and the word to the action,
With this special observance, that you o'erstep not
The modesty of nature."

Fastidious critics might conceive he had failed in the latter part of the precept, but as to the former, the most queazy would own him to be inimitable; it was but a word and a blow, and the blow generally first, each innumerably and most vividly multiplied. As I confess myself unable to follow very minutely the varying turns and flourishes of his oratory, the divers tropes and figures of which might claim a high stand on the score of originality, I seek the privilege afforded me in the last line of the above quotation, to evade giving a specimen. Merthyr, a town long benefitted by an intercourse with the English (many of whom have condescended

coaches which pass between Aberystwith, Presteign, and Pen-y-Bont, change horses; the other called the Lion and Castle, where good cheer, accommodation, and attention, has characterized the house of "mine host" Evans, about half a century. This respectable inn-keeper has met the merited commendations of some of our latter tourists, and it deserves honorable mention, that he was the first who started either a coach or chaise from this place towards Havod and Aberystwith, that remained for many years the only vehicles of the kind in the county, for which spirited undertaking he became a favorite with the late Col. Johnes.

RHAIADER CASTLE.

"In ancient times Rhaiader derived considerable importance from its castle, which stood on a nook of the river Wye, at the extremity of Maes-bach, *Little Field*, now a small common near the town, though its name bespeaks it to have been inclosed in former years. Of the superstructure nothing remains, but the original foundation may be traced, especially on the South-east, where it has still a deep

trench cut out of the hard rock, leading to the river. There is another trench, more to the south, forming three sides of a quadrangle, and about eight feet deep; there also appears to have been left originally, between the two trenches, a narrow space, by which the town might hold a communication with the castle, and is at present the only entrance.

Immediately below the latter is a deep foss, about sixteen feet deep, and twelve wide, running along the foundation of the old fortess, until it communicates with a steep precipiece, the bottom of which is even with the bed of the river. Adjoining this foss, at irregular distances, are several barrows for purposes unknown; and at the distance of two furlongs below the site of the castle, there is a large tumulus, called Tomen Llan St. Frêd, and near it, on the other side, are two more, but smaller, called Cevn Ceido, where it is supposed a church formerly stood, from an adjoining piece of ground, named Clydwr Eglwys. To elucidate the form and strength of its primitive fortress is impossible at this remote period, when not even a stone remains, to assist our conjectures; however, we are enabled to fix its origin as a military station in A. D. 1177, and to ascertain its

having been first built by Rhys, prince of South Wales, as a check to the depredations and cruelties of his Norman neighbours, who were very troublesome to the Welsh at that period. Caradoc of Llancarvan, in his Chronicle of Wales, briefly mentions, that it was completed in the same year; but in 1178, we find the sons of Conan (the latter an illegitimate son of Owen Gwynedd), having joined their forces, marched to attack this castle, but without success, as they raised the siege, and returned to North Wales greatly disappointed.

In 1192, Maelgon formed a conspiracy against his father, and burnt this castle, which prince Rhys rebuilt in 1194; but soon surrendered to Cadwallon, who after several battles was defeated by Roger Mortimer, and dispossessed of all his estates in Maelienydd.

From this period, hostilities appeared to have ceased, and no mention is made of Rhaiader castle, until the time of Henry the Third, when it was burnt to the ground, by Llewelyn ab Iorwerth, and probably not since rebuilt."

It may be observed of Rhaiader, it stands in a narrow wooded and romantic vale, but although many respectable country gentlemen live in its immediate neighbourhood, the steps of improvement are very slow here; the streets are wide, and with very little trouble it might be made a neat and creditable market town; but the accumulated floods, in winter make the streets almost impassable on foot, the removal of which evil, by making proper channels to carry off the water, should be the first consideration.

About two miles South of the town stands an alpine pool called

LLYN GWYN.

the fair lake; with considerable claims to so distinguished a designation, and a man of fortune and taste, by re-planting and ornamenting its margin, might with ease convert it into the most charming gem on the bosom of the landscape; but

"Without fine nerves, and bosom justly warm'd,
An eye, an ear, a fancy to be charm'd,
In vain majestic Wren expands the doom,
Blank as pale stucco Rubens lines the room,
Lost are the raptures of bold Handel's strain,
Great Tully storms, sweet Virgil sings in vain;

The beautious forms of Nature are effaced,
Tempe's soft vale, the raging watery waste,
Each greatly wild, each sweet romantic scene
Unheeded rises, and almost unseen.
Tis chiefly taste, or blunt, or gross, or fine,
Makes life insipid, bestial or divine;
Better be born with taste, to little rent,
Than the dull monarch of a continent;
Without this bounty, which the Gods bestow,
Can Fortune make one fav'rite happy? no!
As well might Fortune, in her frolic vein,
Proclaim an Oyster sovereign of the main."

ARMSTRONG.

The habit of cutting timber, without the patriotic precaution of re-planting, can never be sufficiently deprecated, especially in respect to this once woody, but now bare, country. But nature has been so exceedingly beautiful in her bedeckment of Llyn Gwyn, as to place it out of the power of barbarity or neglect to deprive it of high admiration. Malkin describes it with much felicity. "Llyn Gwyn, the only picturesque lake in Radnorshire; but this is pre-eminently so. We looked down upon it, immediately under us, from the perpendicular heights, by which it is inaccessibly surrounded on every side but the South, where it has an outlet, discharg-

ing its excess of copiousness into the Wye below. On that side is also a lower and less abrupt hill, covered with the finest timber of the forest. Beyond is an immense reach of the Wye in all its glory, meandering discernibly at intervals, as low as Builth, and furnishes a rich and gay distance, in striking contrast with the immediate scene at hand."

About four miles South West of Rhaiader, is a deep narrow defile, through which runs the river Elain, called

CWM ELAIN.

the vale of Does, which, like all welsh names is very characteristic, for though a light stream, its rush is peculiarly rapid and impetuous. Mr. Malkin certainly deviates from his usual correctness in the *reasons* he states for giving the names of animals to rivers in Wales. He says, "On the subject of the Elain it may be observed, that names of rivers are very common in Wales, which would be translated in English by doe, buck, stag, hog, roebuck, raven, wolf, and other such appellations, perhaps *because, in the original sylvan state of the island these animals abounded more than usual in some woody vales or glens.* Hence these places, with the rivers run-

ning though them, derived their titles."—And *hence* it is evident that Mr. Malkin, although one of the most intelligent, industrious, and agreeable tourists through Wales, is, notwithstanding, no Welshman; or he would know that the names of farms, hills, vales, and all objects on the landscape, especially rivers, are correctly descriptive, and strikingly characteristic; so that when the names of animals are attached to them, they merely figure the *speed* of the stream. Hence we have the Dau Cleddy, *Two Swords*, in Pembrokeshire, expressive of a rigid undeviating straightness; and Ystwith, in Cardiganshire, signifying *the pliable*, from its winding undulations towards either of the valley's sides, to and fro, to the utter waste of much ground; the Rheidiol has its name from a similar cause; and "ddu" *black*, is a frequent termination in a river's name, descriptive of the stilly depth of their frequent pools, when the water acquires a sombre hue. Cwm Elain has been much and deservedly eulogised by tourists, as a journey there, and the following extracts, will evince; premising that neither of them, except the correct and enquiring Mr. Malkin have given the name of the valley its proper orthography.

"Cwm Elan, the seat of T. Grove, Esq., who has with a skill and perseverance beyond all praise, brought the rude waste around his mansion into a good state of cultivation. The house is elegant and commodious."

PINNOCK.

"About four miles westward from Rhaiader] is Cwm Elain, the seat of Thomas Grove, Esq. of Fern, in Wiltshire, who, some years since, purchased 10,000 acres of land, called the Grange of Cwm Deuddwr, *vale of the two streams*, then a rude and uncultivated waste; but it is now, under the direction of its proprietor, brought into a good state of agriculture.

The name of Cwm Elain is derived from the little torrent Elain, which runs through the cwm, or valley, in which Mr. Grove has erected his elegant mansion, in the modern stile of architecture, and defended on all sides by hills, some of which are wooded to the very water's edge. The approach to the house is over a handsome wooden bridge, leading to a fine verdant lawn, which expands itself from the house to the bridge, and forms a curve with the river Elain, uniting a singular combination of natural and artifi-

cial beauties, of wild scenery and elegant ornament, of a foaming river and rugged rocks, perpendicular precipices and lofty mountains, contrasted with rich meadows, & neat enclosures, leaving apparently nothing deficient to complete this singular and romantic scene.

In following the course of the Elain through Mr. Grove's estate only, we are often struck with its numerous beauties, particularly one mile from the house, where the pedestrian crosses a rude alpine bridge formed of the branches of trees thrown from rock to rock over the Elain, dashing between them, at the depth of thirty feet.

At this place, the bed of the river is a schistus rock, full of huge excavations of every conceivable shape and magnitude, of a milk-white hue, rendering the profound gulph of water which they contain more dark and horrible; particularly after rain, when swelled with the mountain torrent, its fury is terrible, as it rolls through a channel which offers so many obstacles to the progress of its impetuous course. The Elain preserves this wild and irregular channel for several miles, confined within a rocky chasm, the sides of which are perpendicular, and at

times of great height, discoloured with drippings, tinted with mosses, and crowned with mountain ash, birch, and wych-elms; the whole forming a more wild and grotesque appearance than can be described.

But "last and best" comes Mr. Malkin's account of Cwm Elain, which is agreeably introduced.

"Radnorshire is generally considered, in a picturesque point of view, as the least interesting of the Welsh counties. If this is to be understood as applying to it on the whole, it is undoubtedly true; for both its grandeur and beauty are, with few exceptions, confined to its Western side, on a narrow edge of the Wye, opposite Brecknockshire, and to that North-western nook, which touches upon the counties of Montgomery and Cardigan, and participates in the irrefragable majesty of their character. But Radnorshire, independently of the Wye, has insulated scenes, which vie with any thing to be found in the whole compass of the district that surrounds it. I need only mention the dingle, through which the Machwy runs, the vale of Edwy, and the beauties of Cwm Elain, to illustrate the truth of my

assertion. In the two last especially, are realised those apparent contrarieties of luxuriance and barrenness, sylvan decoration and leafless horror, the blended description of which, in works of fancy, we are apt to criticise as out of nature. They certainly are so for the most part, and our poets, to say nothing of our painters, cannot easily be acquitted of dealing in them too profusely, and indiscriminately. But they do exist, as exceptions to a general rule; and here seem almost to introduce the traveller in fairy land; particularly if his spirits have become languid, and the elasticity of his expectations has been slackened, by toiling over the Eastern division of the county, where his imagination is neither kept alive by what is grand, nor his speculations as a philosopher or economist excited by the improvements of science, working on the higher capabilities of nature. The road along Cwm Elain sometimes passes through groves of oak, with naked points and mountaneous projections impending over their tops. Here the rock is continually burst and broken by the fibres of roots which seem to possess no sources of nourishment equal to the growth they sustain. The scenery beyond Mr.

Grove's house becomes wilder: the path lies along the side of a rock, down which rushes a mountain brook, frequently bringing with it such masses of stone as might endanger an incautious traveller. At this point the channel of the Elain assumes a new aspect. The rocks choak it; it forces its passage through curving gullies; the deep gulph of water becomes black and terrific, contrasted with the milk-white rock which it excavates. The stone which occasions this whiteness is quartz alternating with schistus, whose colour is grey, inclining to brown, every where in Wales. Quartz is very frequently found inbedded in horn-blend schistus, and at the bottoms of rivers generally appears protuberant, and often very beautiful, but always white. The foot passenger leaves this scene to cross some cultivated lands, and comes suddenly upon it again, to pass a truly alpine bridge of planks from rock to rock, over a continued, but no where precipitous, waterfall. Immediately under this tremendous bridge, the river wears its way, at the depth of thirty feet, cutting the smooth white rock into the greatest possible variety of shapes. After rain, the fury of the torrent,

confined for several miles within a rocky chasm, is awful in the extreme."

In a delightful bottom, seven miles North-east of Rhaiader, on a fertile bank of the Clywedog, stand the ancient and venerable remains of the only religious house of the kind in the county, called

ABBEY CWM-HIR.*

The valley on which it stands is delightful, surrounded by hills of different altitudes, one of which, to the North is 1,511 yards high. These hills have a most grand appearance, forming an amphitheatre round its fertile bottom. From one side of the forementioned stupendous hill there is a gradual ascent called the Park, which was formerly nine miles in circumference, and stocked with above 300 deer. The foundations of two deer-houses are still visible. Its fragments and ruins, which may still be traced, prove it to have been a very considerable structure. The walls remaining shew an area of 255 feet long, and 73 broad; which is certainly very dispropor-

* The reader who is not a native of Wales, may be told, this word is pronounced *Coom Heer;* the name signifies "Abbey of the Long Vale."

tionate to the length; but what the superstructure might have been, is impossible to discover from the remaining walls, only a few feet above the surface, composed of some common stone from a quarry in the great park, without a single mark of the chissel. This renders it difficult to determine of what species of architecture this great monastery was originally composed, having neither door, window, arch, nor column now remaining: yet the refectory may be traced, with a few square apertures in the North side about two feet from the ground, but for what purpose these were originally designed is very uncertain, being too low and small for windows, though possessing every requisite for the admission of air. There is a tradition, current in this country, that some specimens of the architecture of this abbey may be found, in good preservation, in Llanidloes church, consisting of six arches, surrounded with small columns, ending in capitols of palm leaves, which, according to a date on the roof, were brought from Abbey Cwmhîr in 1542, and which corresponds with the general dissolution of monasteries in this kingdom. According to Leland, this Abbey was founded by Cadwalon ab Madoc, in 1143, for sixty

Cistertian monks, but never finished. Amid the fallen fragments on the North-east side, the monks' habitations are supposed to have been, and is probably the same which Leland calls the third, and unfinished part.

"How many hearts have here grown cold,
That sleep these mouldering tombs among;
How many beads have here been told,
How many matins here been sung.

On these rude stones, by time long broke,
I think I see some pilgrims kneel,
I think I see the censer smoke,
I think I hear the solemn peal.----

But here no more soft music floats,
No holy anthems chaunted now;
All hush'd, except the owl's shrill note,
Low murm'ring from yon broken bough."

On the dissolution of monasteries, it is supposed, with much probability in the circumstances adduced, that a number of the monks from this abbey transferred their establishment to an antique farm house near, and still in existence called Monachty, *(Monk's House,)* in a remote and secluded situation, in the parish of Llangynllo; while a colony from thence,

according to Mr. Vaughan of Hêngwrt, founded the Abbey of Cymmer in Merionethshire. The Monks of Abbey Cwmhîr were decidedly hostile to the interests of Owen Glendower, for which reason he destroyed their Abbey in 1401. It is remarkable that while this chieftain always protected the Franciscan brothers, the Cistertian monks were always doomed to endure his desolating vengeance whenever he crossed their establishments.

This place being rebuilt, in the style of an antique dwelling-house, became, for many years, the residence of the Fowlers, commencing in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, as appears by the style of the building. The former importance of that family is well conveyed to us in the popular adage quoted in this work, page 17.

From hence the visitor of Llapdrindod Wells may return there, by retracing his steps to Rhaiader, and then varying them by taking the road to Builth along the course of the Wye.

ROAD BETWEEN RHAIADER AND BUILTH.

This road, long a rugged one, is much improved, and continually improving. The distance between

Builth and Rhaiader is 14 miles; the turnpike road almost the whole of the way running along the banks of the Wye, the scenery is often strikingly beautiful, with considerable variation from craggy promontories and barren wilds, to grassy dells, occasionally graced with sturdy forest trees and young plantations of ever-green pines and larches, forming a chaplet, gay and immarcessible, to beautify even the sullen brows of winter.

The objects on this road are so well described by Mr. Malkin, it were mere idleness, except in one instance, to attempt an addition or improvement to his spirited sketch, which I here transcribe; premising, he commences at Builth, and concludes at Rhaiader.

"I shall briefly trace the course of the Wye between Builth and Rhaiader, which, with its descent from Pimlimmon above, will comprise its whole passage through Radnorshire. This is the direct road from Brecknock to Cardiganshire, which I pursued in the summer: the circuitous, and as to scenery, less interesting, route through the heart of the county, was afterwards chosen for variety, and from curiosity; *but those who are confined to one visit will find nothing in the interior to make amends for the loss of this romantic stage, by the banks of the Wye.*

From the handsome bridge of six arches at Builth, Llanelweth House forms a well-dressed object, in a district whose general characteristic is wildness."----

Here I am obliged to stop short, and express my surprise that this tourist should omit to notice a far nobler and better-dress'd object than Llanelweth, which is seated immediately below it on the plain, in all the homely associations of domestic common life; namely, Wellfield House, a noble mansion on a commanding height, elegantly surrounded with handsome and matured groves, that in a high degree bears the palm of beauty and superiority from every seat or object in the vicinity of Builth; and from the bridge appears to occupy a proud station on an elevated gnoll, and looks the very crown of the well-wooded landscape. To account for such an omission is impossible, and so I proceed with my extract.

"After travelling about a mile near the banks of the river, which in the plain is broad and unencumbered, it becomes rocky, confined, rapid, and majestic. Here its current is concealed by deep and shady woods, there its foaming waters are overhung by threatning crags, and break with their hoarse roar the general silence of the lonely scene. From this place bends a little to the right, quitting the Wye for a dreary common of two or three miles in extent, the tediousness of which is terminated at Ithon bridge, and the rest of the journey to Rhuiader

becomes picturesque, various, and interesting in the extreme. That river, placid almost to tameness about Pen-y-bont, assumes an air of grandeur as it approaches its junction with a more important stream. Its bed is still narrow, but enclosed between high and perpendicularly rising cliffs. About the bridge they are for the most part as a wall, but luxuriantly surmounted with branching trees, in all the variety of sylvan accompaniment. Sometimes the disparted stratification leaves an opening to the fibres of roots, with which the rock is impregnated, to put forth a dwarfish growth, that agreeably breaks the continuity of the erect and naked precipiece. There is, though it may not be very easy to describe it, a peculiarity about the scenery of this little river, that strongly distinguishes its character from that of any other among the many and beautiful rivers of South Wales.

The Ithon is scarcely out of the traveller's sight before he renews his acquaintance with the Wye, to leave it no more, but follow all its twistings and deviations, till he reaches the town of Rhaiader. The banks of the river are rich in verdure and foliage, the road on the Eastern side running at first at the foot of rocky hills, which increase with the progress of the journey into mountains. The road is afterwards carried over heights, which rise abruptly from the very brink of the river, and command a succession of the most picturesque landscapes. Sometimes the mountains, that form the side screens, recede to

the right and left, and would seem to leave a freer passage, but that the front is occupied by new ones rising to the view. The grey mist hanging half way down them on a stormy evening made it seem like approaching night at six o'clock, in the month of July. Here we travel through a fine wood; immediately afterwards barren rocks obtrude themselves almost offensively on the eye, not naked at the top only, but from their very base presenting no better appearance of herbage than a little fern. Again the river becomes rocky; new commons are stretched out in every direction; but the general nakedness of the country is relieved by the young plantations about a neat house on the right, called Llwyn-y-Barried, on a moderate declivity. From this place to Rhaiader is a scene of an uninterrupted beauty. On the Western side of the river are several stately groves of oaks: the meadows on the Eastern are rich and cultivated. The pedestrian traveller may take a nearer and very beautiful path along these meadows, which lead him to a new turnpike road just finished, and cut with a labour apparently not to be compensated by any traffic here, out of the mountain again closing in upon the river. Perhaps

the most engaging scene in this stretch of country is about a mile from Rhaiader, at the confluence of the Clarwen with the Wye, the former coming in from the West, in a lancet-like direction, the two composing, with their accompaniments of wood and rock, a rich assemblage of whatever a painter's art or poet's fancy can combine or imagine.

The world-sicken'd poet's wish, expressed in the following sonnet, might be amply gratified among the scenery of this route, except that instead of the "music of the wild wave," the no less romantic melody of the mountain torrent alone would be amply afforded; and in lieu of the browzing goat, would need be content with the grazing sheep.

"Give me a cottage on some Cambrian wild,
Where, far from cities, I may spend my days,
And, by the beauties of the scene beguiled,
May pity man's pursuits, and shun his ways:
While on the rock I mark the browzing goat,
List to the mountain torrent's distant noise,
Or the hoarse bittern's solitary note,
I shall not want the world's delusive joys;
But with my little scrip, my book, my lyre,
Shall think my lot complete, nor covet more;—
And when, with time, shall wane the vital fire,
I'll raise my pillow on the desart shore,

And lay me down to rest where the wild wave
Shall make sweet music o'er my lonely grave."
H. KIRK WHITE.

As Builth will occupy a separate place in this work, when the merits of the Park Wells come under discussion, we forbear to say more of it at present than name the principal inn, which is called the Black Lion, kept by Mr. Davies, remarkable for its comforts, and indeed, superior accommodations. The assiduities of Mrs. Davies, late Gwilym, are well known and appreciated by travellers.

ROAD BETWEEN BUILTH AND LLANDRINDOD.

These seven miles are over a good road, affording at all times an agreeable ride or drive. About half a mile on, at the base of the rugged rocks of Llanelweth, stands the village of Llanelweth, remarkable for nothing more than a neat village church. On looking back from hence towards Builth, the stranger will catch a most agreeable view of that town, the bridge, and a portion of the surrounding landscape, that will yield fine scope for his muse, pencil, or contemplation. About two miles further, on well planted and pleasant looking grounds, stands a respectable mansion called Pen-Cerrig, long the family

residence of the Jones's, but now the property of ——Thomas Esq. There is below the house, at the bottom of a large meadow, a fine pool, that reaches to the hedge dividing it from the turnpike road. From hence the beauty of scenery worsens at every step as we quit the Wye, till it arrives at its acme of barrenness at Llandrindod. On leaving the village of Howey, which is enlivened with numerous young plantations of fir, there is nothing to greet the eye till within sight of the Pump House. There are some walks to be found even about Llandrindod common; we would principally recommend one towards the site of Cefn Llys Castle. The rides, drives or walks towards the North-east part of the county, through Pen-y-Bont, shall be pointed out, with all their incidental objects of note when the Wells of Llanddegley and Blaenedw come to be treated of; in the mean time the reader shall be made acquainted with the principal object, perhaps, of his visit here.

THE WATERS OF LLANDRINDOD.

The gay and happy votaries of health and fashion may find but little satisfaction in poring over a dry analysis or diffused narrative of the cases in which

these spas administer relief; but the poor invalid will search every line with eager avidity, to discover the desired treasure that will charm back the long-absent angel Health. To accommodate the former, therefore, the following abridgement is submitted, while to the latter, the enlarged and copious account is more especially addressed.

THE ROCK WATER issues out of a slate rock which contains a vast quantity of iron earth, salts, sulphur, and carbonic acid gas; the last has the property of acting on the stomach like a dram, and is an excellent stimulant to the nerves. This water is generally prescribed in chronical diseases, which proceed from a weakness in the fibres, scorbutic eruptions, weak nerves, palsies, or a laxity of the whole frame; and in agues, diseases of women, and seminal weakness of both sexes.

THE SALINE PUMP WATER is very beneficial in various diseases, particularly the scurvy, and other eruptions; in hypochondriac disorders, in fevers, and in the stone or gravel. It should be drank from about the middle of March to November, it being then in its greatest perfection.

THE SULPHUR WATER, when thrown on hot iron emits a blue flame, and smells like brimstone. Silver leaves have been changed in less than six minutes into a fine yellow gold colour. It is best adapted for an artificial bath, or any external use designed for the relief of chronic diseases. It is also very beneficial when used as an internal medicine, and recommended in venereal diseas-

es, old sores, diseases of the head, stone and gravel, rheumatism, and gouty complaints. The scrophula, has often been cured by an internal and external use of the sulphur water. It should be remembered it is purgative, therefore some preparation is necessary; for this, like other mineral waters, should be drank in the morning upon an empty stomach. Long walks or hard rides should be avoided after drinking it.

ANALYSIS OF THE SOILS AND ROCKS.

BY R. WILLIAMS.

As a subject connected with the Analysis of the waters, I shall first state my experiments upon the soil. It it is not my intention to enter into a minute and detailed account of all the different strata in the neighbourhood of Llandrindod, but merely to offer a few remarks upon them, so far as regards the waters. The soil consists of a blue, white, and reddish, clay, intermixed, and resting upon a slate rock.

I. ANALYSIS OF THE SLATE ROCK.

The rock from which the chalybeate water issues is of this kind, of a bluish colour, disposed in strata, which are inclined directly downwards to the West. It is soft, and easily pulverized in a stone mortar, decrepitates in the fire, and changes to a dusky red colour; upon exposure to the air and moisture, it crumbles down into a fine powder. It is of the specific gravity 2372, and effervesces strongly with the mineral acids.

A. 1000 grains were boiled in sixteen ounces of distilled water for thirty minutes, the solution being separated and examined with various re-agents, was found to contain only a slight trace of sulphate of lime.

B. 100 grains were exposed to a red heat for twenty minutes, and lost by weight 5.5 grains, principally water of absorption.

C. 100 grains were boiled for three hours with nitro-muriatic acid diluted with distilled water. The solution gave a white precipitate with muriate of barytes, denoting the presence of a small proportion of sulphur, which had been converted into sulphuric acid during the process.

D. 100 grains were digested with 294 grains of diluted muriatic acid, and the loss of carbonic acid gas being ascertained, amounted to 5 grains.

E. a. 100 grains were digested in acetid acid, which was added until all effervescence ceased; the solution was filtered, and the protoxide of iron which the acid had dissolved, precipitated by prussiate of potash. The solution was afterwards neutralized by crystallized carbonate of potash. The carbonate of lime was deposited, and when dried at 212°,

weighed 12 grains.

b. The insoluble matter was boiled for four hours in three times its weight of sulphuric acid diluted with distilled water; the solution was filtered, and the residue, after being heated red for fifteen minutes, acquired a white colour, and weighed 64 grains.

c. The sulphuric solution was mixed with prussiate of potash; a dark blue precipitate ensued; it was collected, exposed to a red heat for half an hour, and then weighed 9.25 grains.

d. The solution from which the iron had been thrown down, was saturated with carbonate of ammonia; the alumina was separated, and when dried as the former precipitate, weighed 7.5 grains.

e. No magnesia could be detected in either of the solutions. 100 grains of the slate rock, near to the chalybeate water, then contain, of

	Grains.
B. Matter destructible by heat, chiefly water of absorption	5.5
E. a. Carbonate of lime or chalk	12
b. Silex, or Flint	64
c. Iron	9.25
d. Alumina	7.5
	98.25
Loss, with a trace of sulphate of lime and sulphur,	1.75
Total	100

2. ANALYSIS OF THE SOIL UPON THE COMMON.

The surface of the common is covered by a short peat, which is dug up by the peasants for the purposes of fuel; below this is a layer of a dark coloured earth, containing much vegetable matter, which rests on a bed of clay, supported by a schistose rock. To the South there are large masses of the plum-pudding stone. In some places the common is drier and more gravelly than in others, which are wet, and divided by extensive turbaries. The clay near the rock water is of a reddish colour streaked with white, soft to the touch, insipid to the taste, and intermixed with loose stones and pieces of slate, partially soluble in the mineral acids without effervescence.

A. 400 grains of the clay taken about 20 yards above the spring, and 12 inches below the surface of the ground, were exposed to a gentle heat, until the water of absorption was driven off, and lost 29 grains.

B. The remainder was gently bruised in a mortar, and the loose stones and gravel, separated by a wire sieve, weighed 105 grains.

C. The clay was boiled for half an hour in a pint of distilled water, and the fine schistose sand divided from the impalpable powder, weighed 46 grains. The loose stones and sand were soft, and consisted of slate, clay, and iron. The watery solution being filtered and evaporated to dryness, did not leave any saline residue.

D. The 220 grains of an impalpable powder were digested for twelve hours in cold diluted muriatic acid, the solution was filtered, and the insoluble matter, when washed and dried, weighed 203 grains; after being exposed to a red heat for half an hour, and having its vegetable matter destroyed, it weighed 192 grains.

E. The 192 grains were boiled for two hours and a half in sulphuric acid, diluted with four times its weight of water; the solution was filtered, and the residue, after being well washed with distilled water, and dried, weighed 152 grains. The muriatic acid had dissolved iron combined with alumina, and a very minute quantity of carbonate of lime. The sulphuric acid had taken up the iron and aluminous earth which were not soluble in cold diluted muriatic acid. They were precipitated by succinate

of ammonia, and when heated to redness, weighed 35.25 grains. Four hundred grains of the clay, according to this analysis, which is intended to shew the general composition of the soil near the rock water, are then composed of

	Grains.
Water of absorption	29
Loose stones and gravel	105
Fine gravel and sand	46
Iron, alumina, and a trace of lime	17
Vegetable matter	11
Peroxide of iron and alumina	35.25
Silex, finely divided	152
Loss	4.75
Total	400

3. ANALYSIS OF THE SOIL BETWEEN THE SALINE AND SULPHUREOUS WATERS.

The soil near the saline and sulphureous waters is deeper than that upon the common. It scarcely effervesces in any perceptible degree with the mineral acids, either concentrated or diluted, indicating the absence of any notable proportion of a calcereous earth; but it feels gritty to the touch, and contains much siliceous matter.

A. 400 grains were exposed to a red heat for half an hour, until the water of absorption and ve-

getable matter were destroyed, and then weighed 305 grains.

B. The mass was ignited in a crucible with one-third of its bulk of charcoal: it became of a brick-red colour, and was strongly attracted by the magnet. The clay was boiled in six ounces of distilled water for twenty minutes: the solution was filtered, and left in an open dish for some days; but no precipitation of sulphate of lime ensued, neither did any appear to exist in the soil.

C. 400 grains of the clay were dried by a gentle heat, and being suffered to remain in a room of the temperature 56° for twelve hours, were found to have absorbed 4.5 grains of water.

D. 1000 grains were boiled for twenty minutes in a pint of distilled water, but no saline matter could be detected in the water of lixiviation.

E. a. 50 grains of the clay, taken from between the saline and sulphureous waters after it had been heated red for half an hour, were boiled with one drachm of vitriolic acid, diluted with four times its weight of water, to dryness; as some redness remained in the mass, the process was repeated with

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half the quantity of acid. The whole was diluted with 12 ounces of water, the insoluble matter, separated and dried at a red heat, weighed 32 grains.

b. The solution was rendered of a dark purple colour by the addition of prussiate of potash, and the sediment which followed, after being ignited, weighed 10 grains.

c. The liquor thus freed from the iron was neutralized by carbonate of ammonia, and the aluminous precipitate which ensued, dried as the former, weighed 8 grains.

d. The neutralized solution being further examined by caustic ammonia, gave no indication of the presence of magnesia.

e. The 32 grains *(E. a.)* of insolluble matter were boiled in distilled water, the solution was filtered, and the sulphate of lime precipitated, and decomposed by carbonate of potash, weighed about 0.25 grain. 50 grains of the clay having been previously heated red, contained, of

	Grains.
Silex or flint	31.75
Iron	10
Alumina	8
Lime	0.25
Total	50

4. ANALYSIS OF LLANFAWR ROCK.

This rock lies about half a mile North of the sulphureous water; its specific gravity is 2.29. The stone is exceedingly hard, but may be reduced to powder by making it red hot, and then suddenly plunging it into cold water, it breaks with a smooth fracture, and exhibits a grey or bluish surface, interspersed with dark black spots, and effervesces strongly with the mineral acids, giving out nearly 5 per cent. of carbonic acid gas. The colour of the rock depends on the iron; and although rendered lighter by digestion in cold diluted muriatic acid, the dark spots cannot be extracted without the assistance of heat, when the silex is left perfectly white. 50 parts of the rock yielded by analysis, of

	Grains.
Carbonate of lime	6.5
Iron and alumina	8.25
Silex	35.25
Total	50

From the experiments which have been detailed, it is evident that the saline ingredients of the waters do not exist in the soil, and that the sterility of the

common chiefly depends on the want of lime and fine gravel, the proper application of which would render the stiff clay less coherent, and capable of growing farinaceous substances of all descriptions fit for the support of man. Sir Humphry Davy remarks,

> "That one cause of the unproductiveness of cold adhesive soils is, that the seed becomes coated with matter impermeable to the air; the grain should not, therefore, be buried deeply in the ground, in order that it may have free access to the atmosphere, for the mucilage contained in the cotyledon of the young plant cannot be converted into sugar, which is the nutriment of the young plant, without the absorption of oxygen."

The saline principles most probably lie dispersed through the rock, under a great part of the country; and there is little doubt but the number of waters already known at Llandrindod might be augmented by a careful search. The waters used for domestic purposes at Llandrindod, as well as the medicinal springs, have their source at a considerable depth, and rise through the crevices of the rock. There are three wells between the saline and sulphureous pumps, the temperature of which varies from 54° to 58°, according to their exposure to the rays of the sun. Two of them are hard waters. Their hard-

ness proceeds from the muriates of soda and lime, and is not therefore dissipated by boiling. At the approach of rain they exhale a halitus that obscures the transparency of the glass. Their specific gravity is 1001.5. They all contain carbonic acid, and change syrup of violets to a light green, shewing the existence of a carbonated earth."

* "The sulphuret of iron or pyrites is by no means uncommon at Llandrindod; during its decomposition, from the influence of the atmosphere, the sulphuric acid combines with the lime to form selenite, or with the clay to form alumina, and a quantity of sulphuretted hydrogen gas is produced. The iron is found in different degrees of oxydation. The peroxyd is much more abundant than the protoxyd, which latter is the most soluble in acids.

* Previous to this, Mr. Williams has a passage on the existence of COAL at Llandrindod, omitted here, for the purpose of giving so important a subject a thorough consideration in a separate chapter. Dr. Linden has written so *positively*, and adduced such plausible arguments to support his conviction of the fact, that it is surely full time to rouse the gentry of this country from their discreditable apathy to determine at once whether so valuable an acquisition and general a blessing, is within reach, and destined to enrich this poor county.

ANALYSIS OF THE SALINE CARBONATED CHALYBEATE, OR ROCK WATER.

This valuable spring filtrates through a slate rock, depositing in its course a reddish brown precipitate. It is situated upon the common, a few feet above the level of Llandrindod brook, which runs close to it, and about a quarter of a mile West of the saline water. This water has been said to bear a near resemblance to that of Lauchstad, in Misnia, three miles from Leipsic ; but from the account Hoffman has given us of the Lauchstad spa, it would appear to be a simple chalybeate water. In July, and in the autumn of 1816, when much rain had fallen during the summer months, the spring yielded a wine pint measure of water in one minute and twelve seconds of time. On the second of June, 1817, the supply was a wine pint in one minute and ten seconds, and upon the 16th of June, when the weather was remarkably fine and dry, the quantity was still the same. Nor is it apparently increased in the

most inclement seasons; from which it is probable, that the source of the spring is at a very considerable depth. Derham, in his Physico-Theology, relates a similar instance of a spring at Upminster in Essex, which he had observed for twenty years, and could not perceive, by his eye, that its stream was augmented by the heaviest rains, or diminished by the greatest droughts. In the summer of 1816, the temperature of the water varied from 52_o to 54_o Fahren. In June, 1817, it was steadily at 50_o. In the summer of 1816, the specific gravity of the water at the temp. 54_o, the instant it was drawn from the spring was uniformly 1009. On the 31st May, 1817 when the temperature of the fresh drawn water was 50_o, its specific gravity was 1004.5. On the 16th of June, at the temperatuee of 50_o, its specific gravity was 1005. When the specific gravity and temperature of a water vary, it is reasonable to conclude, that the proportion of its solid contents must also vary. After standing in a room of the temperature 60_o for 12 hours, the water became sensibly heavier, which was owing to the place of the fixed air being supplied by caloric, for the temperature of the water was increased to 60^o. This

circumstance might have led the chemists of the last century to believe that the "Gas Sylvestre" rendered those waters that contained it lighter than others. When taken up from the spring, the water is clear and transparent: numerous large bubbles are observed adhering to the sides of the vessel, which are much increased by agitation. To the taste it is saline and chalybeate, and possesses an agreeable briskness unaccompanied by any bitter flavour. A glass full of the fresh water was exposed to the atmosphere at the temperature of 60° ; in twelve minutes it became of a pearly appearance ; in fifteen, air bubbles were very apparent, lining the sides of the vessel ; in twenty, the opacity was much increased ; in thirty minutes, a slight sediment commenced ; and in twelve hours, a yellowish precipitate had fallen to the bottom ; the transparency of the water was restored, and its saline properties predominated ; the pellicle that covered its surface was scarcely visible, and to the smell, even when fresh drawn, the water did not differ in any way from common chalybeate waters. The pearly appearance arises from the deposition of the carbonated earths which are precipitated before the iron.

These changes are much accelerated by agitating the water. A phial, containing four ounces, was filled with the fresh water, and immediately closed with a ground stopper; in an hour, a loss of transparency had occurred; and in twelve hours, a delicate white precipitate was very evident. A portion of the water was exposed in a glass flask to the temperature of 65°, air bubbles were immediately disengaged; at 75°, the water became pearly and opaque; at 80°, it had entirely lost its transparency. No other change appeared until the water became heated to 120°, when it assumed a yellowish colour, and became more turbid throughout. A sediment gradually formed, but the whole of the iron was not precipitated until the boiling temperature had been continued for a few minutes. Glass vessels in which this water has remained for a short time, after several washings, retain a beautiful irridescent cast, which is easily removed by means of diluted muriatic acid. A pint of the water kept in an open glass vessel for the months of October, November, and December, did not manifest any signs of putrescence; whence we may conclude, that it does not contain the smallest trace of animal or vegetable

matter. It has been remarked, that those chalybeates which contain much animal and vegetable matter, recover their property of striking a dark colour with galls during the process of putrefaction; this is probably owing to the carbonic acid formed, re-dissolving the iron.

ANALYSIS OF THE ROCK WATER BY RE-AGENTS.

Tincture of galls, added to the fresh water, occasions a pink colour, which gradually changes to a fine purple, approaching to black. This effect is not produced after the water has been boiled, or exposed to the atmosphere for a short time, demonstrating that the whole of the iron is suspended by carbonic acid gas. Prussiate of potash changes the fresh water to a beautiful blue, which in twenty-four hours is precipitated in the form of a prussiate of iron. An infusion of green tea, in a few minutes, strikes a purplish lilac. An infusion of black tea produces a light blue colour, which soon becomes of a dark purple. The blue of litmus is considerably heightened, and when previously reddened by distilled vinegar, its colour is restored. Syrup of violets is rendered of a deep grass green, and the

beautiful red of * Brazil wood soon becomes turned to a fine violet hue. But these effects, like that of the tincture of galls, are not produced after the water has been boiled. The yellow of turmeric is not altered by the fresh water, or even after one gallon has been considerably reduced by evaporation: therefore, the presence of a carbonated earth is indicated by the four preceding tests. Nitrate of silver produces white clouds tinged with blue, which become dark on exposure to the light; when more than a few drops are added, the water assumes a reddish brown appearance, and after resting for half an hour, lets fall a grey precipitate. Acetate of lead causes dense white clouds with a copious sediment of the same colour, shewing the existence of muriatic acid, and the absence of any sulphureous principle. No sulphuric acid can be discovered by the delicate tests of nitrate or muriate of barytes, with or without the assistance of heat. A little nitric acid was dropped into the fresh water, with the view of saturating the iron and calcareous earth,

* The tincture of Brazil wood cannot be depended upon alone as a test of the presence of a carbonated earth, for it is itself decomposed by a simple solution of iron.

and afterwards some nitrate of barytes; but at the end of twelve hours, not the least cloudiness could be discovered. The oxolate of ammonia, and the oxalic acid, denote the presence of a large quantity of lime; and the caustic ammonia, that of magnesia. The caustic ammonia precipitates lime from the fresh water by combining with the fixed air; but both these changes take place after the water has been concentrated by boiling. The fresh water curdles soap, and mixes smoothly into an opaline solution with milk. The addition of lime water either before or after the water has been boiled, is quickly followed by a white flaky precipitate, detecting carbonic acid gas in the first instance, and magnesia in the second. The carbonic acid is very loosely combined with the water. The gas flies off soon after it is taken up from the spring, and is chiefly, if not altogether employed in suspending the iron and carbonate of lime. The nitro-muriate of platina and tartaric acid do not disturb the transparency of the water. Concentrated sulphuric acid causes an effervescence, which is more perceptible after the water has stood for a few minutes. It disengages the fixed air in combination with the lime,

and renders the water milky. After some hours a sediment ensues, and it again becomes clear, when the muriatic salts will be found partially decomposed. A few drops of the nitric, or muriatic acids preserve the water in its natural limpidity, and accelerate the escape of air bubbles.

ANALYSIS OF THE ROCK WATER BY EVAPORATION *.

As mineral waters contain many substances that cannot be detected by means of re-agents or tests, the process of evaporation is employed for the purpose of discovering the whole of their *solid ingredients*, and of ascertaining their different proportions. When the rock water is boiled in a glass vessel it becomes turbid throughout, and of a brownish colour; the pellicle that incrusts its surface is

* The evaporations must be conducted either in glass or Wedgewood ware basons; for the nature of the waters is materially altered by the common earthen utensils. The different precipitates were carefully dried at the uniform heat of 212o; the filtering paper used was unsized; the mineral acids were remarkably pure, and every precaution was taken to render the experiments conclusive and correct. The muriatic acid was of the specific gravity 1170, and in the experiments alluded to, diluted with twice its weight of distilled water.

more perfectly formed; the carbonic acid is driven off, and the iron and carbonated earths are precipitated. When the process of evaporation is carefully conducted at a gentle heat, the solid contents of the water may be obtained. The muriates of lime and magnesia will be seen forming circles or waves round the sides of the bason, while the iron and carbonate of lime, confusedly intermixed with cubic crystals of muriate of soda, will be found at the bottom. The salts procured, have an acrid and bitter taste; decrepitate when thrown on hot coals, but do deflagrate with charcoal; deliquesce rapidly on exposure to the atmosphere, and at a red heat fuse into an imperfect glass, which when cold again attracts moisture from the air. After the addition of vitriolic acid they evolve pungent fumes of muriatic acid gas, which becomes visible on the approach of those of ammonia. A wine gallon of the water was reduced by evaporation to half a pint, and the ferruginous precipitate collected and dried at 212°, weighed 11 grains; it evervesced with cold muriatic acid, and was partially dissolved. The metallic oxyd was not attracted by the magnet either before or after it had been exposed to a red heat,

being melted with pure nitrate of potash, no trace of manganese could be discovered. A wine gallon of the water was evaporated to dryness at a temperature far below the boiling point; the fixed principles were dried at 212°, and weighed 356.75 grains.

A. The 356.75 grains were digested in 1000 grains of highly rectified spirits of wine for twelve hours; the solution was frequently agitated, filtered, and the undissolved residue washed with a little fresh spirit; the alcohol having dissolved the muriates of lime and magnesia, the remaining portion was dried at 212°, and weighed 251 grains.

B. The 251 grains were digested for 24 hours in 12 oz. of cold distilled water; the mixture was frequently stirred with a glass rod, and separated from the insoluble matter, which was well washed with distilled water, dried at 212°, and weighed 11 grains.

C. The ferruginous precipitate was moistened with water and exposed to the sun's rays for six weeks, when it acquired oxygen, which rendered the iron insoluble in acetid acid.

	Grains.
A. Muriates of lime and magnesia.....	105.75
B. Muriate of soda.....	240
C. Ferruginous precipitate	11
	356.75

A. a. The spirituous solution was evaporated to dryness, and the muriatic salts decomposed by the addition of half their weight of concentrated sulphuric acid. The excess of acid was expelled by an increase of temperature, which was continued until pungent fumes ceased to arise. The two sulphates were separated by cold distilled water, which dissolved the sulphate of magnesia, and left the sulphate of lime untouched; the latter was washed with a fresh portion of water, and boiled for fifteen minutes in three times its weight of carbonate of potash; the sulphate of potash was washed off, and the carbonate of lime formed, saturated with pure muriatic acid, diluted with a small quantity of distilled water. The muriate of lime was dried at 212°, and weighed 57 grains.

b. This being deducted from 105.75, leaves for the muriate of magnesia 48.75 grains.

B. a. The aqueous solution, which contained

only muriate of soda, was reduced to dryness at a degree of heat between 80° and 90°; the residuum was dried at 212°, and weighed 239 grains.

C. a. The ferruginous precipitate was digested in 240 grains of pure acetic acid for twelve hours; the insoluble matter was washed with distilled water, dried at 212°, and weighed 7.5 grains.

b. This residuum was boiled in diluted muriatic acid for twenty minutes, and left undissolved 1.33 grain, of a light-coloured substance, which became perfectly white on exposure to a red heat, and was found to consist of silex.

c. This being deducted from 7.5, leaves 6.17 grains for the carbonate of iron.

d. The acetic solution which had dissolved carbonate of lime, was neutralized with crystalized carbonate of potash, and the precipitate collected, washed, and dried at 212°, weighed 3.4 grains. According to this analysis, a wine gallon of the rock water conains, of

	Grains.
A. a. Muriate of lime	57
b. ..... magnesia	48.75
B. a. .....soda	239
C. a. d. Carbonate of lime or chalk	3.4
b. Silex or flint	1.33
c. Carbonate of iron	6.17
	355.65
Loss in the different processes, chiefly muriate of soda	1.1
Total	356.75

ANALYSIS OF THE GASEOUS CONTENTS OF THE ROCK WATER.

A glass flask, which, with its syphon, contained exactly sixteen ounces and two drachms, was completely filled with the fresh water, and gradually heated by means of a spirit lamp; upon the first impression of the heat, the water expanded; the two drachms contained in the syphon were suffered to escape, and deducted from the results of the experiment; the boiling temperature was continued for four hours, when the whole of the gas was extricated, and being received over mercury, when the barometer stood at 29°,8, and the thermometer at 58°, amounted to 1.375 cubic inch, or, for the total quantity of gas, per gallon, 11 cubic inches. The

1.375 being submitted to the action of lime water, the carbonic acid gas was absorbed, and afterwards to a solution of green sulphate of iron saturated with nitrous gas, no diminution of bulk appeared at the expiration of six hours; but the remaining gas extinguished a lighted taper, and possessed the characters of azote; and as the results of the several examinations, the following proportions were obtained, of

Carbonic acid, or fixed air.....	0.775
Azotic gas, or nitrogen	0.60
	1.375

or, per gallon, of

	Cubic inches.
Carbonic acid	6.2
Azote	4.8
	11

The slate rock, the nature of which has been described, is in many places stained of an ochery appearance, and from one of these a small spring rises, guttatim; from its scarcity, or from a supposition that it was stronger than the rock water, it was vulgarly called the brandy drops. I caused a small well to be dug in the rock, and examined the

water with various re-agents. Tincture of galls instantly occasioned a fine pink, but did not, upon long standing, acquire a dark purple hue*. Syrup of violets produced a deep grass green. Oxalate of ammonia indicated lime. Nitrate of silver detected muriatic acid; acetate of lead and nitrate of barytes, denoted the absence of sulphur and sulphuric acid; sulphuric acid rendered the water turbid, and disengaged a few bubbles of air; the temperature of the well was 55°. Upon evaporating a wine pint, I obtained a residuum of 44 grains: or, in the proportion of 352 grains of solid contents in the gallon. The quantity of salt contained in a gallon, is equal to that of the rock water; but it is by no means so strong a chalybeate. A comparative statement of the proportion of foreign ingredients procured from a gallon of the rock water.

			Grains
In July, 1816,	specific gravity	1009	356.75
In Sept. ditto	ditto	ditto	356.75
In June, 1817,	ditto	1005	328."

* The same remark was made by Dr. Linden.

To enlarge this analysis by adding Dr. Linden's experiments would swell this work very unnecessarily; however, their amount may be given in a very brief space.

"From what has been said, we may safely conclude that the rock water of Llandrindod contains,

1. A very great plenty of ætherial, elastic, volatile, mineral, spirits.
2. A mineral balsam of the amber kind, which is combined with the before mentioned volatile spirits, and the iron mucilage.
3. A volatile vitriolic acid.
4. A large and sufficient quantity of ferruginous contents.
5. A perfect sulphur.
6. A neutral purging salt, participating of the nature of borax.
7. The common vehicle, water. So that this water is a perfect purgative chalybeate, excellently well impregnated with other salutary mixtures, so as to become one of the most sovereign remedies, and safe even in the most enfeebled constitution."

CASES IN WHICH THE SALINE CARBONATED CHALYBEATE, OR ROCK WATER IS EFFICACIOUS.

BY DR. LINDEN.

This water, in general, is good in all such chronic cases as proceed from a lax fibre, or a weakness of the vascular system; and is particularly to be recommended when the disease is situated in the most remote parts of the human machine, whither it is difficult, or next door to an impossibility, to convey the ordinary shop medicines. In scorbutic eruptions that proceed from a feebleness in the vis vitæ. In weak nerves. In the periodical asthma, whether humoral or spasmodical. In St. Vitus's dance. In palsies, whether partial or total; whether from a resolution of the part, or a poverty, or vicidity in the juices. In a general debility, or weakness of any particular member; whether it be the result of a paralytic disorder, or remain after the cure of an apoplexy. In epilepsies, when other remedies have proved unsuccessful. In agues, that have baffled the administration of the bark. In weakness left after a fever. In some erratic, slow nervous fevers. In all diseases incident to the fair sex; the fluor

albus; inflations of the stomach, and hypochondria; and all the various symptoms that come under the denomination of the hysteric passion. In weak bowels. In flushings, or redness of the face. In all obstructions. In a seminal weakness of both sexes." In conclusion of a long article under the head of "*Chronical Disorders that proceed from a laxity, or a weakness in the fibres; and of obstructions consequent thereon,*" which, wandering far from, and then returning to, the immediate point, the Doctor continues. "It is certain that in these cases other compositions will be of little service, because a medicine is required consisting of extreme volatile parts, of a penetrating nature, capable of pervading the minutest ducts, and of attacking the stagnating juices in the inmost recesses of their lurking holes: and yet, at the same time this medicine must be so mild, and of so benign a nature, as to be divested of all pungent acrimony. Its active parts must be sheathed and enveloped by a soft diluting vehicle, stored with volatile mineral principles. For the tender fabric, debilitated frame, and irritable nerve, will not bear the vellications of a rough acrid. But alas! such a one as I am speaking

of, is not to be found amongst the inventions or productions of art. But Providence, it seems, has furnished us with such a specific in these kinds of chalybeate waters; and what the same all-ruling Power has denied us in the pursuit of art, he has given us here. For the volatile, ætherial, elastic, spirits are the very remedies we want in these cases, as they quickly pervade the smallest passages, and introduce their own vehicle, the water, replete with salts. The one to soften and dilute the obstructing matter, the other to scour the glands and secretory ducts from all filth and dregs; whilst, at the same time, the debilitated frame and relaxed vessels are strengthened by the chalybeate contents, the nerves exhilerated, and the spirits raised, by the ætherial ones. In disorders of the same nature, but proceeding from an opposite cause, where the stagnant matter is sizey, the blood rich, and the elastic force of the vessels strong, these waters will have a quite opposite effect with their astringent qualities; for by contracting the capacities of the tubes they rivet and fix the obstructing matter in its seat, instead of discharging it; and hence an innumerable train of disorders would be the fatal consequences of taking *them.*

In all disorders where this water is beneficial, I must, once for all, recommend the drinking of it as near the fountain-head as possible. For as the other contents entirely depend upon the ætherial, volatile, elastic, spirits, when these are evaporated, no success can reasonably be expected from them, unless the purging quality be the only thing required, as in some gross habits where a plenitude is only to be carried off."

"In scorbutic eruptions, that proceed from a plenitude of the serum, or watery part of the blood, the rock water is to be made use of, preferable to any other. For the saline, scorbutic, or pump water would cool too much; and by emptying the vessels too fast, would reduce the blood into its pristine state of poverty. Besides, a deobstruent is wanted to open the excretory ducts, and clear the skin, by attenuating the matter which caused the disorder; so that, for more than one reason this water, in this case, is to be made choice of.

All the scorbutic disorders, which are incident to poor people, who live chiefly upon vegetables, milk, cheese, and salt butter, are of this class, and therefore this rock water is, in a particular manner, to be

recommended to them. This species of scurvy is a kind of endemical disease in these mountainous countries. I have had many cases of this sort under my hands, and have found them ever obstinate, which is greatly owing to the patients themselves, who neglect the means of relief too long. The medicine most in vogue at present for it, is the sea-water: but I have experienced the saline chalybeate water far beyond it. One thing I can't help remarking, which is, that the patients never go for relief but in summer, and by those means greatly neglect themselves; for many might be relieved in the winter as well as summer; and the winter season would be more proper for some than the summer. Let us but consider, that all orders of men in this great metropolis, during the most busy time of their vocation, the winter, breathe in too great a plenty of moist, vapid, unelastic, air. It is at this season the senator is engaged in his country's service; the lawyer pleads the cause of his clients; the priest is more fully employed in his functions; the merchant quits the country air; the shopkeeper is more confined; besides, in most of the different employs the lungs and organs of the breast not only

have the greatest stress laid on them, but likewise are the first and most immediately affected by the moisture, pressure, and other properties of the atmosphere. So that it is no wonder we meet with so many asthmatic complaints amongst all conditions and ranks of men. And the same reason that teaches us that this is the cause of their complaint, will teach us that *that* must be the fittest remedy, which lubricates the passages, attenuates and dilutes the affecting matter, thins the blood, discharges its excrementitious qualities, and strengthens the part. It is agreed on all hands, that a palsy may ensue from a relaxed state of the solids; but let it proceed from whatsoever cause possible, the saline chalybeate waters that are endowed with plenty of volatile, ætherial, elastic, spirits, for ages past, have signalized themselves as the most sovereign remedies. In an epilepsy, where the usual remedies prove ineffectual, we may take it for granted that the whole, or greatest part of the vascular system is choaked, or clogged with the morbid matter; wherefore remedies are required to penetrate the inmost recesses of the human body; but as yet we have not been able

to obtain such by art; we must therefore have recourse to nature and her valuable productions contained in these waters. In agues, where the bark proves ineffectual, we lie under an indispensible obligation to make use of such remedies as are aperitive, as well as astringent; and as we cannot but acknowledge the imperfect art of chemical pharmacy, we must have recourse to Nature's alembic. Debility after fevers is very common in these Northern climates, and sometimes brought on either by unskilful evacuations, or by a neglect in purging off the morbific matter, which lays a foundation for innumerable disorders, that if tampered with, often prove dangerous. But this remedy, these waters, out of Nature's dispensatory, has legitimated itself, as safe and effectual.

We have observed, that a lentor in the fluids, and a surcharge of humours upon the viscera, are the cause of the hysteric passion. The watery vehicle, therefore will serve to dilute it; the saline to attenuate and discharge it: and as no part can be overstretched, or overloaded, without being weakened, the chalybeate contents will strengthen, and, by that means prevent a return of the fits.

In all kind of obstructions, wheresoever seated, as well as in a debility of any particular part, this rock-water is an excellent remedy. But to enumerate all disorders consequent thereon, or those incident to the fair sex in particular, would swell this treatise into too large a bulk.

In diseases that depend not on a debilitated frame, I should be unwilling to recommend this water. Where there is a tense fibre; dense, rich blood; or, in constitutions that are otherwise distinguished with the epithets hot, adust or bilious; it will certainly prove prejudicial. For as by stretching the string of a fiddle too much you will probably break it; so, from overbracing the fibres of the human body, dangerous consequences will ensue.

The same caution is necessary with regard to age: for it is not a fit medicine at all times and stages of life. Let us but consider that the longer we live, the fewer blood-vessels we retain in our bodies, and that the fibres become stiff, and loose in their spring or force, so as to be unable, from their too great rigidity, to give sufficient motion to the juices. This stiffness would be increased by the cohesive

contracting power of the chalybeate contents. We may therefore conclude (allowances being made for the difference of temperaments) that this water is utterly to be avoided after 50 or 60 years of age.

ON THE SAME.

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS.

Few mineral waters that we are acquainted with, in this or any other country, contain so large a proportion of iron; and when we consider that the most active form in which this metal can be exhibited as a medicine, is in the state of solution by carbonic acid gas, the greatest advantages may be expected from the use of the rock water. The gas is disengaged during the process of solution in the stomach, and exerts its immediate effects on the nervous system. Carbonic acid, although fatal to animal life, when respired, may be drank in small quantities with perfect safety; it acts as a general stimulus to the nerves, and *often occasions symptoms similar to those which follow an immoderate use of vinous or spirituous liquors: persons, therefore, who are subject to a fulness of the vessels of the head, should be careful to avoid the use of all fermented*

beverages. Carbonate acid has been found particularly soothing to irritable surfaces; it is abundantly produced in the different operations of Nature, and while oxygen supports the respiration of animals, this gas enters into the structure of vegetables, and a variety of calcarious spars, lime-stones, &c. All waters that contain iron, suspended by carbonic acid gas, have more or less of an astringent quality. They quicken the pulse and increase the florid colour of the blood. They exhilirate the spirits, promote the appetite, and cause a sensible determination to the skin and kidneys. They constringe and strengthen the muscular fibres of living animals, and are often used with success in removing general debility, and in restoring the tone of the alimentary canal. The influence of azote as a medicine has never been ascertained. It is found plentifully in the waters of Bath, Buxton, and Harrowgate, and may exert some useful power that we are hitherto unacquainted with. To the silex I cannot impute any medicinal virtues, although it has been suggested by Dr. Gibbs, who discovered it in the Bath waters, to assist materially in their general effect. The carbonate of lime will afford great relief in correct-

ing the acidity of the stomach, so often productive of the heart-burn. The saline principles of the water are very considerable, and require particular attention in a medical point of view, as the dose of the water must in some measure be proportioned to their action on the bowels. The muriate of soda, or common salt, is one of the most important articles in domestic economy; it acts as a stimulus to the whole body, and has been found useful in some cases of dyspepsia. It forms the principal ingredient in a stimulating bath, and may, by the irritation that it excites, produce a new action in the skin. The analysis of these waters clears up any doubt that may remain with regard to the aperient qualities of lime and magnesia, for as they contain no other purging salts, the effects which they produce on the bowels must be attributed to the earthly muriates. Dr. Saunders, when speaking of the earthly muriates, remarks

"That the power which they *may* possess of acting on the intestinal canal is not quite ascertained; but from their great solubility, and from analogy with salts of a similar nature, we may, I think, conclude, that this forms a principal part of their operation."

And that his opinion was correct, may be fully illustrated by the effects of the Llandrindod waters.

The muriate of lime has a disagreeable bitter taste. It is found in a variety of salt springs, and in the waters of the Dead Sea. It has been recommended in scrophulous and glandular diseases, and in cases of general debility: in an over-dose it has excited "qualms and sickness, and has been known to destroy dogs." The property of this salt in generating intense cold during its solution, or when mixed with snow, has also been applied to medical use. The muriate of magnesia is not uncommon; it possesses a very bitter hot taste, and is the salt that gives the bitterness to sea water. A pint of sea water contains about 51 grains of muriate of magnesia, and this quantity, combined with about 186 and ½ grains of common salt, is a sufficient dose for the generality of patients; we may then safely ascribe no inconsiderable purgative qualities to this salt. *The sensible effects of the rock water are those of a powerful tonic; it invigorates the languid constitution, and improves the system that has been injured by long and continued exertion.* The water will be found beneficial in all cases of an universal langour and weakness, that proceed from a relaxation of the stomach and of the

fibres in general: in relaxed, gross habits; in some species of the lepra; and, other cutaneous diseases, which depend on debility. The herpetic affections here alluded to, are those that are accompanied with a dry and scaly appearance of the skin, dispersed over the surface of the body in reddish patches, and which are most frequently cured by alterative and tonic medicines; in hysteria, and hypochondriasis; in the fluor albus and gleets; in spasmodic disorders arising from a weak and irritable state of the nerves; and in those obstructions which most frequently disturb the healthy functions of the female constitution. It may be employed in such asthmatic disorders, and chronic coughs, as originate from a relaxation of the pulmonary vessels: but here, some discrimination will be necessary, and its use must be cautiously regulated. This water has been found particularly serviceable during the time that it was drank, in relieving the symptoms that indicated a morbid affection of the lungs, accompanied with cough, and purulent expectoration, when unattended by hectic fever. In such cases I have known it check the discharge of pus, and contribute much to the comfort of the patient. *In weak and irritable*

habits, where the pulse was remarkably quick, the water has been observed to reduce its frequency, and to increase its strength. Its use should be carefully avoided in full and plethoric habits, before the body has been cooled by proper evacuations, especially if there is any determination of blood to the head or chest: in cases of confirmed obstructions attended with fever; or even when local congestion exists without fever; in chronic inflammation of the liver, and hot bilious habits; but "chalybeates may be used to advantage, with the view of giving that tone and energy to the system, so very defective in cases of jaundice." In calculous complaints, when the stone owes its formation to the uric acid, and is accompanied with ulceration of the bladder and a discharge of matter, the water may be employed; but I would not recommend it when the stone is composed of lime or magnesia, as it might tend to increase the disposition to the disease: neither would it be proper to advise the water in diabetes; because in the healthy state of the body it increases the excretion of urine; but in rickets and mollities ossium, where there is great debility and a deficiency of lime, the water may deserve a trial.

In chlorosis, from the active form in which the iron exists in the rock water, the most decided advantage may be expected.

"Chlorosis is a disease accompanied with a diminution of the quantity and activity of the bile, preceded by affections of the stomach; such as loss of appetite, indigestion, and flatulent eructations."

Dr. Saunders further observes, that

"If we were to point out one disorder which above all others received benefit from mineral waters, it would probably be this; even at the time that the feverish irritation which always subsists, the head-ache, and frequent dyspnœa, might seem to forbid its use. This, however, appears a striking exception to the general rules for treating complaints attended with fever, since it is found that chlorosis even in its inveterate stage, where not actually accompanied by the inflammatory symptoms, that precede any internal suppuration, will almost always bear, and be the better for, every kind of chalybeate medicine. "In this complaint the strictest attention must be paid to the diet; it should consist principally of animal food: the influence of which, in producing a rich blood and increased secretion of bile, is amply proved by daily experience; together with the careful avoidance of all vegetable acids, which diminish the red globules of the blood, and by destroying the activity of the bile, bring on a pale, exsanguineous, complexion." *

The warm bath has been strongly recommended by Hoffman; and most authors have concurred with him in bearing testimony to the good effects which follow its use in cases of chlorosis: it should therefore be had recourse to, until the patient is able to overcome the sedative effects occasioned by a sudden

* Saunders on the Liver.

submersion in cold water; when the tepid, or cold bath, will be found more invigorating remedies. The rock water proves extremely serviceable in debility of the uterine vessels, which, if neglected, produces obstructions and sterility in females. It is likewise sometimes employed to restrain preternatural evacuations from the womb, to give strength to the extremities of the debilitated vessels; but with regard to an increased discharge of the menses, the water should not be allowed, when it is attended with febrile symptoms; and it should be remarked, that it is in those diseases which arise from general debility, and are unassociated with any organic defect, where the water promises to afford the happiest effects.

NECESSARY PREPARATIONS PREVIOUS TO A COURSE OF DRINKING THE ROCK WATER.

BY DR. LINDEN.

The patient's own observations are by no means to be disregarded; for every one that has some time laboured under any chronic disease, is, in some measure, a judge of his own case, particularly of such things as agree or disagree with him, which together with every other article he can recollect appertaining to himself, he ought to impart to the physician he consults, so as to enable him to form a just idea of his disease. The next thing that comes under our consideration, is, whether the patient ought to lose blood or not. If it should be thought requisite, the vein ought to be opened three or four days before he enters upon his intended course, and unless something forbids it, the day after his arrival, because we may suppose the blood after the journey to be somewhat inflamed; in which state we may always expect greater fruits from the operation, because then the circulation is more rapid than in a state of ease and repose.

The subjects fit for bleeding are such as have a natural tendency to generate rich blood. Such as are accustomed to high feeding, or the use of cordials and spirituous liquors to revive their drooping spirits, and who lead an inactive sedentary life. These last, in particular, have occasion to lose blood, and that in a sufficient quantity in order to make room for the waters, disburthen the viscera, and cause a free and easy circulation.

Where the case is the reverse; where there is poverty of the juices, where the vis energiæ and texture of the blood is destroyed, as it is in leucophlegmatic habits, or in such as have a tendency to the dropsy, bleeding must be omitted, and in its stead must be substituted purging with the saline spring, commonly called the pump-water; which in this case, must be taken upon an empty stomach, at repeated doses, in small glasses, each glass not containing more than a quarter of a pint, to which a tea spoonful or two of rum, brandy, or carmelite water may be added. Five or six of these portions must be swallowed in bed, or in the room, in the space of two hours, more or less, according as they operate, or in proportion to the idiosyncracy of the patient,

two or three purging motions being sufficient. This method must be persisted in, for the space of three or four days, which will be a fit preparation for a course of the rock-water. But those with whom the pump-water does not agree, may take the rock-water, if they let it stand in an open bottle for the space of eight or ten hours, that the chalybeate contents may evaporate; when it will prove a proper purge and answer the above mentioned purpose, and may be taken by itself, or with rum or brandy, as ordered with the pump-water.

Experience has furnished the republic of physic with many shop compositions, as fit preparatives for a course of chalybeate waters; but as these are quite unnecessary at Llandrindod, where we have such choice of these natural evacuants, I will omit speaking of them, especially, as I think these have greatly the pre-eminence to any met with even in our modern pharmacopœiæ.

Bathing the feet is of such consequence, that, to some habits, even that alone is an excellent preparative; indeed, it ought not to be forgotton or omitted during the whole course of drinking the water; as it

greatly revives and refreshes some sluggish spasmodic habits, gives the blood a more free, easy, and uninterrupted, circulation, adds some elastic force to the vessels, which they greatly stand in need of; causes a revulsion; relieves the head; empties the hypochondria; takes off those oppressions which a disturbed and uneven circulation occasions, and which bring in those terrors, those anxieties, those frightful dreams, and that oppressive langour, incident to some that labour under hypochondriacal affections; and, by making the body easy, disposes to sleep; during which time perspiration, and the other animal functions, proceed regularly. Hence, a way is paved for the waters; which, without interruption, oftentimes may enter upon their office; and the mortal fabric is capacitated to receive what will correct and discharge the morbific matter by the secretory and excretory ducts. Since, by experience, we are convinced that bathing the feet has this salutary effect, we do not only recommend it as a preparative before drinking the water, but also as an aid and assistant during the whole time of taking. As a preparative, it is to be used three or four evenings successively just before going to bed; and as an assistant about

twice a week. This bath is no more than to make the saline pump-water hot and to infuse into it some cephalic herbs.

ON THE SAME

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS.

At the commencement of a course of the rock water, some preparation will generally be required; the patient should pay particular attention to his stomach and bowels, for when they are not properly evacuated, several inconvenient sensations very frequently arise: the water is then apt to disagree, and occasions vomiting, fulness of the head, and uneasy distention of the stomach and bowels. In some cases it has been known to produce convulsions, and I have more than once seen a considerable bleeding excited from the nose, when no precautionary measures had been taken. "The purest waters will in certain habits, especially the debilitated, occasion some degree of vertigo and determination of blood to the head, when first drank, which usually go off in a few days;" but when these symptoms come on during the use of the rock water, they should be removed by appropriate medicines before it is per-

severed in. With regard to general blood-letting, I am of opinion, that wherever it will be thought necessary, the rock water ought not to be employed, and the patient would probably be most benefitted by a course of the saline water. During the summer months, the country people who resort to this spring, are in the habit of drinking from twenty to thirty half pints in a morning before breakfast, without feeling any inconvenience: when drank in such immoderate quantities, the ill effects which follow an overdose are prevented by its operation on the bowels; but those happy results which follow a more judicial use of the water, are not produced on the constitution. It is of the greatest importance that the water should be drank immediately upon being drawn from the spring; but should the patient be prevented from going to the spot by the inclemency of the weather, or any other cause, its qualities will be best preserved by carrying it in a bottle, closely corked, with the neck downwards, at a low temperature; the gas then ascends to the upper part of the vessel, and is not so liable to be lost. The water will not, however even in the closest stopped phials retain its virtues long, for the iron is

soon precipitated from its solvent, and left in a comparatively inert state. The coldness of the water will in many cases have a salutary influence, and contribute much to the warmth and general glow experienced by the patient after a dose of the water, which may depend very much on the re-action that succeeds the impressions made on the stomach in the same manner as when cold is applied to the surface of the body, for it is well known that a glass of cold spring water will often produce a sensation of heat and perspiration upon the skin; and as the water cannot be made warm without destroying its active properties, those persons whose stomachs are incapable of retaining the fresh water, may combine a little spirits of cinnamon or nutmeg with it, until they have gained sufficient strength to overcome the nausea and sickness occasioned by the cold water. The aromatic tinctures which are generally recommended for this purpose, contain an astringent principle which decomposes the iron, and must therefore be considered as improper additions. Since the rock water cannot *always* be taken with safety in such large quantities as to act decidedly on the bowels, costiveness sometimes attends its use, and

in these cases the saline water should be drank two or three times a week, so as to keep the bowels open; or the rock water itself may be employed for this purpose, after its gaseous principles have been suffered to exhale; I should, however, prefer the saline water, because it will be found more grateful to the palate.

AT WHAT TIME, AND IN WHAT QUANTITIES, THE ROCK WATER IS TO BE TAKEN.

BY DR. LINDEN. *

When the patient is prepared, after the manner above laid down, he may venture upon a course of drinking the waters, which must be done at the spring-head, because the volatile chalybeate contents exhale, almost as soon as taken out of the spa:

* In another part of his work, the Doctor gives the following necessary caution.---"To vomit at the commencement of drinking this water is very common to those whose stomachs are full of slimy matter, or bilious impurities; it generally continues three or four days successively, each paroxism being lighter and easier than the preceding. The patient by the evacuation, acquires strength, vigour, and liveliness; It then desists of its own accord, but if the contrary happens, proper remedies must be made use of. Alkaline salts, nitre, or the pump water, along with some warm, bitter, aromatic tincture, have the pre-eminence. This water is not naturally emetic, and this spontaneous evacuation is often more beneficial than one procured by art. Sometimes, indeed, vomits are requisite."

even at so short a carriage as ten or twelve yards. I am well aware that it will be here objected, that some weak, tender constitutions can hardly bear the air, much less rain. To this I answer that if they will reap the full fruit and advantage attainable, they lie under an indispensible necessity of running the risk; and therefore must guard against the danger in the best manner they can, by warm cloathing; by riding on horseback; or if too violent an exercise, they may go in a sedan, or any other convenient vehicle.*

The time of drinking should be before breakfast, from six to nine o'clock, according as the weather will permit. But as these kinds of waters are in their utmost perfection before the sun gains any ascendency, I would recommend them to be taken as early as possible; even before seven or eight o'clock, if the patient can rise so early. We should repair from our lodging to the spring with as much ease as possible to ourselves, that we may be perfectly cool when we come thither. But there are

* The reader will observe, Mr. R. Williams, a few pages on, suggests another mode of accommodating sickly patients, on such an emergency.

some patients so weak and feeble, that the least motion causes perspiration, such, should be conveyed in a sedan, coach, or on horseback. As soon as their strength encreases, gentle walking will be preferable to a vehicle. The water tastes more agreeably after such exercise, and in this motion, the action of the muscles presses upon the blood vessels, and glandular strainers; whence we may promise ourselves a more successful, certain, and prosperous, effect. The quantity taken, each morning, ought never to exceed a quart, or three pints, and to this the patient must ascend by degrees. The glasses should contain no more than one quarter of a pint, so that one quart may be taken in two hours. The first day, the patient should begin with three, and so add one every day, till they amount to eight, which must be drank in the space of two hours as before observed. About an hour before dinner, it would not be amiss to visit the fountain again, and take a draught of the water, which ought never to exceed two glasses; and about bed-time two glasses more should be taken: But the chalybeate contents of this nocturnal dose should be suffered to evaporate, as it is intended to keep the body

soluble. I most earnestly entreat the visitors not to venture upon too large a dose, such rashness has often been, and may again be, attended with fatal consequences. Proofs, grounded upon experimental and anatomical basis, shew that immoderate quantities of water must be highly detrimental, both to the large and small vessels of the viscera. Overload a close vessel, or barrel, with common water, you will find, by agitation and close confinement of its contents, you will cause it to burst. Can we then reasonably expect any other effect from a water that is impregnated with elastic spirits, which, on the slightest agitation will break any vessel which it is contained in? Therefore, by drinking too much, the very intent of relieving is frustrated. It stands warranted upon the same foundation, that smaller doses of water operate more speedily and securely than large ones, as they more easily insinuate themselves into the capacities of the fibres, and intermix with the fluids, when gradually taken. I think there is an absolute necessity of drinking the waters cold. For my part, I fairly and ingenuously confess, I cannot hit upon any method of giving it warm, and at the same time, of preserving its volatile, ætherial,

mineral spirits, although I have attempted it in many shapes; therefore must content myself with advising every one who consults his welfare, to drink it cold. The weak, the lean, the phlegmatic, and such as are subject to hypochondriac disorders, whose stomachs are chilled by cold liquors, should mix some carmelite-water, tincture of orange peel, cardamons, or such like, or a little rum or brandy with it. These will make it agreeable to their stomachs, and its use will so invigorate them, that they will soon become in a fit condition to drink, and bear it with ease, without any other mixture. In many cases these waters may be mixed with an equal quantity of milk, by which they will, in an eminent manner be improved in their efficacy; particularly in such scurvies, and scrophulous disorders before mentioned. The milk here, not only sweetens and corrects the acrimonious juices, but also nourishes and enriches the blood, and thus assists the medical contents of the water. Hoffman has not only observed this property, in these cases, but has, with equal success, administered it after the same manner, in the gout. Whatever is mixed with this water must first be put in the glass, and the chaly-

beate water received upon it. These waters may also be assisted with other medical aids, according to the advice of the prescriber.* They should never be used without gentle exercise between each draught. Those who are able should walk, and those that ride must use a little of that exercise; and those that come in a sedan should order the glasses to be opened, and be carried about for some time, that they may breathe as much of the clear air of Llandrindod as possible. Mineral waters require a particular and exact regimen; the most simple food is the most proper, all kinds of fresh meats, as well as fish, dressed plain. I would entreat every one who visits these waters to avoid meat suppers, which poison and corrupt the very juices we endeavour to correct and amend. Vegetables, milk, and the like, are preferable. As to liquors, brandy or rum mixed with the water, or milk and water, are the most

* As symptoms of the agreement of this water with the patient, and of the reverse, the Doctor observes, "the cramp in the calf of the leg, or in any other part of the body, announces the good effects of the water; because it plainly indicates that the sinews have received new vigour, and a fresh supply of nutriment, as well as elasticity. Warm bathing and exterior unction, emolient, as well as repellent, may then be necessary. Some mend speedily, others require a longer time; however, this is certain, that if the water does no service, it must disagrees with the constitution, and therefore its use should be discontinued.

suitable. The air is required to be serene, warm, and perfecty clear, so that it ought constantly to fan and ventilate our bodies, for the radiating beams of the sun would prove detrimental to us, if their scorching heat was not continually moderated and corrected by the cool, gentle, and temperate, breezes of a fine, thin, circulating, air, which Llandrindod so eminently possesses, and which is so necessary to those who drink these waters.

Exercise, as before observed, should be mild and gentle, so it ought never to be used too long, or sufficient to bring on lassitude or weariness. If, on the other hand, to prevent this, you intermit the exercise, and have recourse to rest, that rest ought not to be indulged so long as to let the body become cold or chilly. It will be necessary, always, on cold moist days, to have a fire in the room.

The volatile, ætherial, elastic, spirits, most commonly cause, or promote sleep, so that the patients who drink these waters, are often heavy and drowsy, after taking them. This drowsiness must by no means be indulged, but shook off and diverted by some amusement or other, as dancing, walking, or such exercise as the weather, and circumstances of the patient will admit of. The same rule must also be observed after supper; for nothing is more pernicious than to go immediately to bed, upon a full

stomach; and it is equally hurtful to sit up too long.

The following cautions, by Dr. Linden, to be observed previous to, and after, leaving off this water, deserves especial notice.

"Previous to quitting the wells, the quantity of the water should gradually be decreased to two or three glasses; as even that small number will still keep up its medicinal effects. It is very dangerous to travel with this water circulating in the mass of fluids; it should be purged off by the saline pump water, or, in this instance only, with watergruel; and afterwards entirely leave off its use. In this interval no fatigue, no hurry, should be ventured upon. The diet should be plain, and easy of digestion; when thus three or four days prepared, the patient may set out on his journey, but to undertake it sooner would be dangerous. In his journey, let him make no long stages, but travel quietly and gently. On his return home, sobriety, and avoidance of every excess, must be insisted on. For aliment, the food that best agrees. Neither keep late hours, nor lie too long in the morning. Take exercise in the open air, or if the weather prevents, indoors; such as walking or dancing; it is of such moment that it cannot be dispensed with."

ON THE SAME

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS.

The most proper time for drinking the water is early in the morning, before breakfast, and again at noon: many patients are in the habit of repeating the evening, but this practice admits of tions, and may even sometimes be at- danger. The exact quantity to be must of course be regulated by the seve- stances of the age and constitution of the

patient, and the nature of the disease, but more particularly according to the effects which it is found to produce on the individual. The glasses should not contain more than one quarter of a pint, or four ounces; a glassful may be taken in the morning, and another between breakfast and dinner; in a few days the quantity may be increased to three quarters of a pint, or a pint. When it is intended to act as a general tonic, the total amount taken daily should never exceed one quart; but there are some cases in which water may be administered in large doses, so as to operate two or three times in the twenty-four hours. The signs of its agreeing with the patient are an increased appetite and spirits, a general glowing feeling of warmth upon the skin, a sensible determination to the kidneys, and the gradual improvement of the health and strength. When the water disagrees, it occasions flushings in the face, fulness and heaviness of the head, bleeding at the nose, involuntary spasms, disturbed sleep and dreams, heat, thirst, and other febrile symptoms. The water sometimes induces hæmorrhoidal affections, eruptions upon the skin, and a disposition to erysipelatous inflammation; its use should then be laid aside, and the body be more prepared for its reception. It is most advisable to begin with a small quantity, in order that its effects may be observed, and gradually to increase it, as experience teaches us, that chalybeates lose much of their in-

fluence by long habit. The same rule must be applied here of drinking the water as is followed upon the introduction of any cold fluid into the stomach; it should not be taken when there is any great sense of chilliness present, or after a general perspiration is commenced. The water should be drank in repeated draughts at intervals of from fifteen to twenty minutes, which should be employed in exercise. It may not be requisite to expatiate on the kind and degree of exercise, as this must depend entirely on the strength of the invalid: those that are able may walk, or ride, about the common, when the weather is favourable; but should never continue their exertion, so as to bring on fatigue, or much perspiration. An attentive regard to diet is strictly necessary. Tea at breakfast, and other vegetable astringents that decompose the water, should be avoided, and ought not to be taken soon after; but cocoa, chocolate, or milk, may be used with propriety; and in the evening tea may be taken without disadvantage.* The hour of dining at Llandrindod is at three o'clock, and it would be most proper that at least an hour should elapse between the taking of the water, and a meal. The general diet should consist of animal and vegetable substances, that are light and easy of

* In some instances, when the patient complains of any irritation, excited by acrid discharges, the water may be mixed with an equal quantity of milk, which will assist in removing *the unp*leasant symptoms.

digestion. The quantity taken at one time should be moderate. The use of high-seasoned food, or of vegetables that are too acescent, cannot be admitted. Water, or white wine and water, may be drank at meals, and will much assist the power of the rock water. The "Dieta Aquosa" is, in general, carried too far at Llandrindod, and I would recommend that a glass or two of white wine should be taken after dinner. In some cases, brandy much diluted may be used; but as spirituous liquors have a strong tendency to diminish the activity of the bile, and excite diseases of the liver, they should never be indulged in. It may be expected that I should make some remarks on the medicine which might be administered in conjunction with the rock water: further than what has been advanced in preparing the body for its use, and the occasional employment of the aloetic pill, or a few grains of calomel, the water should always be allowed a fair trial in its natural state; and from the analysis which has been given, it does not appear to me, that it will be found deficient in power. Chalybeate waters have rarely been proposed as remedies for very young children; their complaints, in general, are such as do not require a tonic and stimulating medicine, under the age of eight or ten years; the rock water may not therefore be considered of good effects; nor can it be deemed a proper medicine for elderly persons of either sex, particularly females, at that period,

when the constitution undergoes a change. With respect to the requisite duration of a course of the water, this must depend very much on the nature and extent of the disease. When its employment is judiciously managed, the patient soon begins to feel its beneficial effects, and these continue long after the water is left off. A shorter period than three weeks scarcely justifies the expectation of any material advantage, and a longer one than two months, or at the utmost three, is not required to produce all the good effects of which it is capable. During this period the water should be occasionally omitted for a few days together, by which the stomach will be relieved, and its influence not be so likely to wear off from constant habit.

ANALYSIS OF THE SALINE PUMP WATER,

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS.

The stream of this water flows from the south, and affords a sufficiency for the invalids who resort to Llandrindod; the supply is not however very plentiful, and the well is occasionally pumped dry for an hour. The well is sunk about six feet below the surface of the ground, and is secured from any accidental admixture with other springs. In closely corked bottles the water will bear carriage to some distance, and will retain its purging qualities; but from the volatile nature of its gaseous contents, cannot be so efficacious as when drank at the pump.

Corked bottles that have been filled with the fresh water, and afterwards immersed in a hot fluid, or set in a warm place, presently burst from the expansion of the gas. The sensible qualities of the saline water when drawn immediately from the pump, are, it is quite clear, colourless and bright; it does not sparkle in the glass after the first agitation of the water is gone off: to the taste it is weakly saline, and exhales a perceptible sulphureous odour; but is by no means unpalatable, the bitterness of the earthy salts being concealed by the muriate of soda. After being exposed to the atmosphere for a few hours, the smell is entirely lost, the water appears full of globules of air that line the inside of the glass; it retains its transparency for some days, when it becomes slightly turbid, a delicate white pellicle encrusts its surface, and a scanty precipitate subsides. In the summer of 1816, the temperature varied from 53° to 54°; in July, at the temperature 54°, the specific gravity of the fresh water was 1006.5; in October, after there had been much rain, at the same temperature, it was 1005. On the 31st of May, 1817, the temperature of the water was 52°, and its specific gravity 1005,4. Although the thermometrical temperature of the saline and sulphereous water does not commonly differ more than one or two degrees, the former evaporates a much greater sensation of cold when the temperature is equal to the other. This water, when considered a little time, is copiously deposited and partly

conveyed off by the hydrogen gas, which holds it in solution. The salts obtained by evaporation have a greyish colour, and in other respects are not dissimilar to those procured from the rock water.

Twelve pints were considerably reduced by evaporation, and after the sediment which ensued had been separated by a filter, the remaining fluid was further concentrated until a crystallization commenced on the surface, when it was set aside to cool. The salts thus obtained were of a cubic figure, decrepitated when thrown on hot coals, fused at a red heat, and sublimed without decomposition, which are the distinguishing marks of muriate of soda.

The brine afforded a white flaky salt, composed of the muriates of lime and magnesia; its taste was extremely acrid and bitter; it fused at a low red heat without crackling, and remained perfectly dry when properly secured from the atmosphere; but upon exposure, deliquesced very rapidly.

The sediment separated by the filter effervesced with diluted muriatic acid, and was insoluble in spirits of wine, with the exception of a little vegetable matter, which gave the solution a yellowish colour.

A. A wine gallon of the water was evaporated to dryness by a very gentle heat, and afforded 342

grains of solid contents, which were digested for eighteen hours in 1000 grains of highly rectified spirits of wine. The solution was separated, and the insoluble matter washed with a little fresh spirit, and dried at 212°, weighed 250 grains.

B. C. The 250 grains were digested for twenty-four hours in 12 oz. of cold distilled water; the residue was collected, washed, and dried at 212°; it weighed 5,8 grains.

		Grains.
A.	Muriate of lime and magnesia.....	92
B.	Muriate of soda.....	244,2
C.	Insoluble residue	5,8
		342.

A. a. The alcoholic solution was evaporated to dryness, and the salts, dissolved in a little cold distilled water, were decomposed with effervescence by means of a cold solution of carbonate of ammonia, that had previously been exposed to the atmosphere for several hours. The muriate of ammonia was washed off from the carbonate of lime, which was saturated with very pure muriatic acid, diluted with a small quantity of distilled water; the muriate of lime thus formed was dried at 212°, and weighed 67 grains;—*b.* This being deducted from 92, leaves for the muriate of magnesia, 25 grains.

The solution, after the carbonate of lime had been

separated, gave a white precipitate with phosphate of soda.

B. a. The salt taken up by the aqueous solution, consisted entirely of muriate of soda; it remained permanent in the air, and when evaporated to dryness, crystallized in cubes and quadrangular spangles.

C. a. The 5.8 grains which had resisted the action of the spirits of wine and water, were digested in cold diluted muriatic acid for two hours; the residue was washed, dried at 212°, and weighed 5.2 grains. It was composed of vegetable matter.

b. The muriatic solution was diluted with distilled water and divided into equal parts; a few drops of oxalate of ammonia being added to a portion of it, no precipitation or loss of transparency ensued; but with the caustic ammonia, the presence of a small quantity of magnesia was indicated in the other.

A wine gallon of the water appears, from these data, to contain, of

		Grains.
A. a.	Muriate of lime.....	67
b.	.....magnesia	25
B. a.	.....soda.....	244.2
C. a.	Vegetable matter..	5.2
b.	Carbonate of magnesia.....	6
	Total.....	342

ANALYSIS OF THE SALINE WATER BY DISTILLATION.

A glass flask, which with its syphon contained exactly sixteen ounces and two drachms, was completely filled with the water, and gradually heated by means of a spirit lamp; upon the first impression of the heat the water expanded, and the two drachms contained in the syphon were suffered to escape, and deducted from the results of the experiment, which was repeated several times with similar conclusions.

The gas was received over mercury, and the boiling temperature continued until no more came over. The sulphuretted hydrogen, that was not decomposed by the mercury, was absorbed by a hot solution of nitrate of silver, and there remained in the eudiometer 1.125 cubic inch, when the barometer stood at 29°.8, and the thermometer at 58°.

The gas was transferred into a phial filled with lime water, and frequently agitated; the carbonic acid was thus separated from the azote, and gave for their respective proportions, of

	Cubic inches.
Carbonic acid gas	0.50
Azote	0.625
	1.125

Or, per gallon, of

	Cubic inches.
Carbonic acid gas	4
Azote	5
	9

To determine the quantity of sulphuretted hydrogen, the gaseous products of sixteen ounces of the fresh water were received over boiled water of the temperature 100°, and at the conclusion of the process, immediately transferred into a hot solution of nitrate of silver; a diminution of bulk ensued equal to 0.125, making for the total quantity of sulphuretted hydrogen, per gallon, 1 cubic inch.

The saline water is subject to very little variation in its specific gravity; hence the proportion of its solid contents is usually about the same.

	Grains.
In July, 1816, a wine Gallon yielded	342
In June, 1817, ditto	346

ON THE MEDICINAL PROPERTIES OF THE SALINE PUMP WATER.

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS.

By far the greater number of persons, who resort to Llandrindod, derive the most benefit from drinking the saline water.

It cannot, however, be taken with impunity, and requires that some attention should be paid to the

constitution of the patient previous to its use. In general, a few grains of calomel administered the preceding evening at bed-time will be sufficient and may be worked off the following morning by the water.

But when the bowels have been long disordered, or the patient is of a full plethoric habit, a further preparation will be required. In the latter instance, it may be proper to allow a part of the carbonic acid gas to escape, either by warming the water, or exposing it to the atmosphere for a short time before it is drank.

General blood-letting is very rarely necessary; yet there may be some cases in which it would form a part of the plan of treatment, and a professional gentleman ought to be consulted as to its propriety. When taken to the extent of from three to eight, or ten half pints, the water occasions several evacuations, which may be regulated by the number of glasses taken after the first motion has been procured. The purgative effect of the water is much increased by the aid of warm fluids, and when a few glasses are found insufficient to operate upon the bowels, it will be most advisable for the patient to drink half a pint of the water that has been warmed, and this is best done by adding to the cold water some that has been previously made hot.

The aperient qualities of the saline water are often promoted by alternately combining a glass or two of the sulphureous water along with it.

The number of glasses required to purge, varies considerably with different persons; hence, the water is often drank in much too large a quantity. If the means that have been recommended do not render the water sufficiently strong to produce the desired effect, it would certainly be most prudent to mix some *Glauber's salts* with the water, rather than to go on drinking glass after glass until it operates. Salts of a similar nature to those contained in the water, might easily be obtained by the process of evaporation and crystallization, and when the muriate of soda has been separated from the deliquescent salts, the latter may be preserved in a state of solution, and added to the water as occasion may demand. Some discrimination is required, to determine whether the water ought to be used so as to produce its full effects on the bowels, or more particularly to promote the excretion of urine, both of which may be effected according to the method of administering the water.

The sensible effects of this water, upon taking it, are a slight degree of drowsiness and head-ache, which usually go off after the first day. Sometimes these symptoms continue during its use, and come

on more especially in the evening, after dinner, even when the bowels have been freely evacuated in the morning, and may be attributed to the influence of the carbonic acid gas.

Patients who drink the water incautiously, in large doses, suffer very much, unless it purges them briskly, and they often complain of great distention of the stomach and bowels, flushings of the face, with a strong disposition to sleep, and dryness of the mouth and fauces; in weak and irritable habits, the water is apt to excite some degree of thirst, even when used in small and repeated doses. These unpleasant symptoms may be removed, by procuring an evacuation from the bowels as quickly as possible.

It may be proper to mention, that when the water operates entirely by urine, and does not cause a determination to the intestines so as to unload them of their contents, the invalid will not be much benefited; and if the use of the water is persevered in, it only induces debility and nervous irritation.

The saline water sits lightly on the stomach, and acts on the bowels in a very gentle and mild manner, without occasioning griping, or leaving that languor and weariness which often succeed the operation of the common neutral salts; and may be persisted in for several weeks without losing its effect, or in-

ducing any great debility; during its course the spirits and general health of the patient will be much improved; and this invigoration may be ascribed to the stimulus of the carbonic acid gas, and of its other saline ingredients on the stomach and digestive organ; yet, when the water is drank for a long time, so as to cause a great determination to the bowels, some degree of debility and lassitude is felt, and not unfrequently the rock water may be recommended with success, after the use of this water, for the removal of bilious complaints. The saline water should be taken early in the morning, in doses of half a pint each, at intervals of from ten to fifteen minutes; the patient should take moderate exercise in the open air till it operates, and when it has given one or two motions, he may return to breakfast, but the fast should never be broken until such time as the bowels have been opened once at least. With the few exceptions that have been mentioned, it is always most judicious to allow the water a fair trial at its natural temperature, not only because it is more pleasant and agreeable to the taste, but that its coldness will, in many instances, have a beneficial influence, and by the re-action which it excites, very much improve the tone and energy of the stomach.

During a long course of the water, it would be of service to discontinue its use for awhile and

sometimes the sulphureous water may be combined with it to advantage.

Many patients are in the habit of drinking it with their meals, and at all hours of the day; but those who consult their health will avoid this practice, which may be attended with the most serious consequences: indeed, the best authors who have written on the subject of mineral waters, have been so fully convinced of the importance of this regulation, that they expressly forbid their use at meals, or even for several hours afterwards.

The saline water has been found a valuable remedy in hypochondriasis, and in a long train of nervous diseases that proceed from a vitiated state of the bile; in chronic rheumatism; in obstinate and habitual costiveness; in scorbutic disorders; in scrophula; in a variety of glandular obstructions, and when the stomach is loaded with a viscid mucus inducing nausea, sickness, and a morbid state of appetite; in cases of hœmorrhoidal affection, and intestinal worms.

"Persons who, from a long residence in warm climates, or from leading a sedentary life, and great application to business have had their biliary organs injured, and are labouring under an irregularity in the secretion of bile, with languor and torpor of the mind, loss of appetite, and indigestion," may often be restored to convalescence by a course of the saline water, and a strict adherence to the rules of diet, air, and exercise.*

* Saunders on Mineral Waters.

Hpochondriasis is a complaint to which persons of the melancholy temperament, with dark hair and complexions, are the most liable; and they are also more subject to a redundancy of bile, which, when secreted in too large a quantity, occasions debility of the frame, and a desponding, inactive state of the mind. This disease often proceeds from obstructions in the liver, and a deficiency of bile; but it is in a superabundance of that fluid, with increased acrimony, where the water will prove of the greatest service: when accompanied with gall-stones, their passage will be best promoted by drinking the warmed water, with the proper use of tartarized antimony, nauseating doses of ipecacuanha, and the cautious employment of calomel.

In the dropsy, I have had no opportunity of judging of the power of the water. Three instances have been related to me, in which it was said not to have produced any good effects; still, from its being a strong dieuretic, I should feel disposed to recommend it in the incipient symptoms of anasarca, and œdematous swellings of the feet, that originate in a disordered state of the liver, but not so as to interfere with the exhibition of more powerful medicines.

The water may be employed in many diseases of the urinary organs, that give rise to the formation of calculi and gravel, and after a long course of mer-

cury, for the cure of venereal affections. It is more especially in these cases that the saline water should be administered in small doses early in the morning, and between breakfast and dinner, so as to keep the bowels regular, and promote the excretion of urine. Combined with milk, it has been prescribed in the hectic fever that attends pulmonary consumption, and found to allay the cough and troublesome dyspnœa usually attendant on that distressing complaint.

Another important use of the saline water is in removing the peculiar habit of body that predisposes to cutaneous eruptions and scorbutic disorders, "which cannot be repelled without exciting internal inflammation, and make their appearance at different periods in painful ulcerations on the skin, producing a copious acrid discharge of lymph, and an abundant desquamation."* Such complaints are often tedious in their progress, and require a patient trial of the water. Sometimes the eruptions and itching are increased for the first few days, but go off by the aid of a little cooling medicine.

In scrophula, the sea-water has certainly a decided preference, both on account of its greater strength, and the influence of the marine air, which contributes much to the invalid's recovery; although in-

* Dr. Saunders on Mineral Waters.

stances are not wanting where this water has effected a cure.

Hœmorrhoids, or piles, and fistula in ano, are more frequently to be regarded as constitutional than local diseases, and generally owe their origin to a full and plethoric habit, hepatic obstruction, or habitual costiveness. Experience has long determined the superior efficacy of saline purges, particularly when united with sulphur, over those of a more drastic nature. Here, then, the sulphureous and saline waters may be combined and taken, with the hope of producing a salutary change.

"Females who are suffering from a number of anomalous symptoms, occasioned by a suppression of the menstrual discharge, and women who have arrived at that time of life when this periodical evacuation begins to cease, and is followed by difficult respiration, febrile heat, irregular flushings, pains in the back, and swellings of the feet,"† will derive benefit from the saline water at Llandrindod.

The water often gives immediate relief in the heartburn, and restores the tone and vigour of the stomach after it has been impaired by the intemperate use of food, or of spirituous liquors.

The stomach is much assisted in its energy by warm clothing and moderate exercise; and when, from diseased bones or other cause, this becomes impracticable, the patient should be carried about, or ride in an open carriage.

† Dr. Saunders on Mineral Waters.

The diet should be nutritive, and rather generous; every kind of aliment that is heavy, and indigestible in its nature, or heating and stimulating in its quality, should be avoided. The quantity the stomach is capable of digesting, must never be exceeded; and water, or white wine and water, should form the common beverage at meals.

The saline water may be drank as soon as the weather will permit of early rising, and the use of exercise before breakfast; hence it is that the company rarely resort to Llandrindod before May, and continue there through the Summer months until the beginning of November.

The duration of the course must be regulated by the nature of the disease, and the effects of the water on the constitution. A shorter time than two or three weeks will scarcely justify the expectation of any permanent benefit; and it more frequently happens, that it must be persevered in for four or five weeks, and sometimes for months, before the health is perfectly re-established.

In hot weather the journey to Llandindod should be performed by gentle stages, otherwise an inflammatory disposition might be excited that would defeat the intended purposes of the water; and for the same reason it may be proper, on the arrival of the patient, to delay its employment for a day or two.

The water should always be left off in a gradual manner, and no alteration made in the diet for some time, to prevent the mischief that might ensue from a sudden discontinuance of the depleting system.

The saline water is well adapted for the purposes of a cold bath, and may be used, under the same restrictions as sea water, in all cases of general debility and nervous affections, that are unattended by any determination of blood to the head and chest, or internal inflammation, provided that the constitution is able to bear the shock of immersion, and to overcome the sedative powers of cold water; for when the patient is so debilitated as to be incapable of re-action, and remains trembling, pale, and inactive, bathing is a remedy of a dangerous nature.

Those who are of a strong and robust habit may bathe early in the morning, before breakfast; but, in general, weak and delicate people will derive the most advantage from going into the water about two hours afterwards.

The saline water should not be drank on the days that the bath is used, and the frequency of its repetition must depend on the nature of the disease; it should not, however, be employed oftener than three times a week.

In ardent fever the cold affusion is limited to that stage of the complaint "when there is no sense of

chilliness present, when the heat of the surface of the body is steadily above the natural standard, and especially when there is no general or profuse perspiration*."

GRNERAL REMARKS

ON THE SALINE PUMP WATER,

BY Dr. LINDEN.

"The Pump water of Llandrindod will be found an excellent remedy in the scurvy, in tetterous eruptions, and in the hypochondriac malady; in the morphew, in the leprosy, in several species of the gravel, in fevers, particularly such as are called fevers upon the spirits: and in all such maladies as proceed from impure and corrupt juices. In all these disorders, we venture to call our Llandrindrod water a sovereign remedy; because its purgative contents are by the ætherial, elastic, volatile, mineral spirits, conveyed through the smallest meanders that the circulation is performed through: which dissolve and discharge the matter that causes the eruptions, obstructions, and ulcers, which are their characteristics. The Scrofula, or King's Evil, is a disorder which, to my certain, know-

* Dr. Currie on cold Affusion.

ledge, has frequently been cured by this, and the Sulphur water taken in conjunction: nor need we longer wonder at it, when we view them in their true light, as purifiers of the blood of the first class. To such as are affected with costiveness, we especially recommend this Saline water, which will bring their bodies into proper temper. Many other diseases might be brought in here; such are those where the dregs of the small-pox are not sufficiently purged off; which for a series of years may make the constitution miserable; or the leaven of juvenile sallies, which all the art of healing, with the joint aid of chemical inventions has not hitherto been able to root out and destroy; yet in these natural remedies, we find our wants of effectual medicines copiously supplied. In some disorders, and most commonly in these, the skin is like a parchment; and the perspiratory ducts so much closed up, that it would be unreasonable to expect a deobstruent quality equal to our purpose, to exert itself at this great distance from the heart, in intervals only. *It is therefore absolutely necessary, in order to effect a complete cure, to bathe in these Saline waters, without any other addition, made milk warm.* This will soften, dissolve, and discharge the glutinous lentor, that is lodged, and blocks up the pores of the skin. In the case of gravel, this water must be used cautiously, *small doses in the beginning with a long continuance*, must be insisted on: nor will any thing

more be required to brace the vessels and prevent a return of the disease. These waters are, from the middle of March to the beginning of November, in their highest perfection; but they are efficacious in relieving diseases in any, and every part of the year.

As soon as the patient has chosen his lodging, let him consider whether his body has been lax, or costive, during his journey; if costive, take a pint of the Saline pump water on going to bed; if otherwise, omit it. Early next morning, about nine or ten ounces of blood should be taken away. A few minutes before bleeding, drink a quarter of a pint of pump water, and while the blood is running, take now and then a spoonful of it, which will prevent fainting, and make the blood issue more briskly. The place of bleeding, whether in the arm or the leg must be left to the discretion of the physician. In a morphew, or where a patient is inclined to corpulence, cupping is certainly of far greater advantage than bleeding; but then cupping must be repeated every other or third week, while bleeding is seldom requisite more than once in a whole course. This water should be drank out of long narrow glasses, and so swallowed gradually, by which means the æthereal, volatile, elastic spirits will diffuse themselves with more facility through the minutest vessels, and open the passage for the water, and its salutary contents.

The scorbutic patient having entered upon the course, must use this water both purgatively and alteratively. As an alterative it is certainly one of the best, as it sits easy on the stomach, strengthens, and warms it, increases the appetite, promotes digestion, and renders a person brisk, lively, and vigorous. As a purgative, so much of this water must be taken, as will operate four times, and as an alterative once or twice extraordinary, in twenty-four hours. As a medicine for adults, the quantity is about three times a day, by way of alterative, which is to be regulated in this manner:—about one pint and half should be taken in three doses, leaving fifteen minutes between each, in the morning before breakfast; about an hour before dinner, another half pint, another about six o'clock in the evening, and the same quantity at night on going to bed: should these doses fail to produce the desired effects, they must be increased, and if too powerful, lessened accordingly.

Amongst the many and various diseases incident to humanity, none require purging physic so much as the scurvy; it is well therefore, that we have the blessing of these natural purgatives, that do not weaken and enfeeble the constitution. As physic, then, this water ought to be taken about twice a week, in order to discharge the crudities of the distemper, that were softened, loosened, and put into

agitation by the water, whilst it acted as an alterative. In hypochondriacal affections we must regulate the use of this water by other methods, to make it a suitable remedy, because of the great langour of spirits, attended by flatulencies, troublesome eructations, great debility in the digestive faculties, lassitude in all the limbs, head-ache, with many other symptoms; which, together with the obstructions seated in the hypochondria, demand more moderate proceedings, snd more gentle assaults, to oblige them to glve way. A frequent change of medicines is very detrimental in this disorder. Bathing, as well as drinking the waters, is not only serviceable but necessary*; The hypochondriac patient being arrived at the alterative method of taking this water, his draughts must by no means be too large and copious as those prescribed in scorbutic cases. His glass should be no larger than a common wine glass, but let him drink often, that is, as much as will agree with him without purging. Let him more than once, take a small glass between meals, and on going to rest.

When thus the patient has drank the Saline pump water for about three or four weeks, he ought to

* For Doctor Linden's instructions and remarks on a Saline Bath. See another part of this Work, viz. the Park Wells, Builth: that article is purposely postponed, as the matter respecting these Waters of Llandrindod has swelled to an unexpected length.

bathe in baths made of the sulphur waters; which bathing must be repeated every other, or every third day, according as he maintains his force and spirits under its effects. But on the bathing days, he must totally refrain from drinking the Saline pump water*.

* The reader who is acquainted with Doctor Linden's Work, will observe it is here very necessarily condensed, as he is generally most teazingly diffusive, and abounding with repetitions. Thus, simplicity of diet and drink, with wholesome and agreeable exercise, as with the Rock Water, is recommended again in the same words, with similar dissuasions from intemperance in eating and drinking.

ANALYSIS

OF THE

SULPHUREOUS PUMP WATER.

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS.

THERE are several springs of a sulphureous nature Llandrindod, situated within a few yards of each other: one only of these is now used internally; the rest are employed as external applications.

The sulphureous water rises in a dingle about 100 yards north of the saline water, and its stream flows nearly in an opposite direction from north to south.

The soil is of a dark brown colour, and consists chiefly of the remains of decayed animal and vegetable matter, with strong traces of a ferruginous earth. It does not effervesce with the mineral acids; but is more favourable to vegetation than the soil upon the common.

Upon pumping early in the morning, the first portions of water are covered with a thin pellicle, and often contain small pieces of sulphur, that have been deposited on the sides of the well.

This water varies much in its appearance; sometimes it is of a colour inclining to blue, and at others, perfectly clear and transparent.

It has a strong sulphureous smell, similar to the odour of addle eggs, or the washings of a gun barrel. To the taste it is slightly saline and nauseous, but habit soon reconciles the patient to its use.

It gives out a few bubbles of air, and leaves a halitus, or vapour, that obscures the transparency of the glass.

The water, in its course down the channel from the pump, deposits a black sediment, and white fibrous mucus, which was formerly preserved for the purpose of dressing old wounds and ill-conditioned ulcers.

After standing for twenty-four hours exposed to the atmosphere, the water becomes rather opaque; it loses its sulphureous taste and smell, and becomes simply saline even when secureed from the air, the

sulphur being disengaged from the hydrogen gas, and precipitated in a thin film on the sides of the vessel. The water should, therefore, be drank at the pump, "more especially in cutaneous diseases, where the sulphureous principle is particularly required; vessels out of which this water has been constantly drank, or that have retained it for a short time, become coated with a black sulphureous sediment.

The water is much affected by heavy rains, and after some days of stormy weather, becomes very turbid. This circumstance is probably owing to the well, which is not sunk more than three feet, communicating with the neighbouring springs.

In the summer of 1816, the temperature of the water was generally 54°.

In May and the beginning of June, 1817, it was 52°.

In July, 1816, its specific gravity was 1009.5.

In September, 1005°; and on the 31st of May, 1817, 1004°.

The specific gravity of the water is, therefore, subject to some variation, and this may arise from

the same cause that destroys its transparency in a rainy season.

Examination of the Sulphureous Water by Reagents.

Tincture of galls dropped into the fresh water occasions a light purple tinge, which, after some hours, turns black: a flocculent precipitate falls to the bottom of the glass, and the water above acquires a yellowish colour; but this change is not produced after the water has been boiled, or suffered to remain in the open air for a short time.

Prussiate of potash causes a light green tinge, which, after standing for half an hour, becomes shaded with a very faint cloud of blue.

Tincture of litmus was not perceptibly reddened but had its blue colour slightly increased.

Tincture of Brazil wood, added to a pint of the water, was, after some days, precipitated of a dingy blue colour.

Turmeric paper was not altered.

Syrup of violets is in a few minutes rendered of light grass green, which gradually changes to a much deeper cast.

A solution of soap is immediately curdled.

Lime water is instantly rendered turbid, both before and after the water has been boiled.

A few drops of nitric acid preserve the transparency of the water, accelerate the escape of a few globules of air, and increase the sulphureous odour that proceeds from it.

Oxalate of ammonia discovers the presence of a large quantity of lime.

Nitrate of barytes gives no indication of the existence of combined sulphuric acid.

Nitrate of silver produces beautiful white circles streaked with blue, which as they descend through the water, become of an orange brown colour.

Nitrate of silver added to the boiled water, was followed by an abundant white precipitate.

Characters traced on paper with a solution of acetate of lead become black and legible when steeped in the fresh water, or held over its surface, which indicates the presence of sulphuretted hydrogen, and accounts for the change which the water undergoes on being exposed to the atmosphere

for a few hours, as well as for the sulphureous sediment found on the sides of the vessels in which it has been kept.

Bismuth is blackened by the fresh water, and polished silver is immediately tarnished.

The water is not in the least degree affected, either by tartaric acid, or the nitro-muriate of platina.

INFERENCES.

From the foregoing experiments, the following inferences may be drawn.

That the water does contain the least possible trace of iron, as indicated by the faint cloud of blue produced by the prussiate of potash, but in quantity infinitely too minute to be estimated.

That, in other respects, the water is similar to the saline, from which it differs only in the proportions of its solid ingredients, in being more fully impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen gas, and containing less of carbonic acid gas.

EXAMINATION OF THE SULPHUREOUS WATER BY EVAPORATION.

The odour of the sulphureous water is augmented

by the action of heat; this may proceed from a greater volume of sulphuretted gas being driven off in a given time than when allowed to evaporate spontaneously.

When the water is boiled in metallic vessels, it is decomposed, and becomes of a yellow colour, from the influence of the sulphur on their surfaces.

A wine gallon of the water being evaporated to dryness, left a residuum of 308 grains.

A. This was digested in four times its weight of highly rectified spirits of wine for 24 hours; the solution was separated, and the salts that remained undissolved being washed with a little fresh spirit, were dried at 212°, and weighed 222.6 grains.

B. c. The 222.6 grains were digested with 12 oz. of distilled water, and the insoluble residue being collected, washed, and dried, weighed 6 grains.

	Grains.
A. Muriates of lime and magnesia	85.4
B. Muriate of soda	216.6
C. Insoluble residue	6.
Total	308.

A. a. The alcoholic solution was evaporated to dryness, and the earthly muriates decomposed by sulphuric acid; the excess of acid was expelled by an increase of temperature; the sulphate of magnesia was carefully dissolved in a small quantity of cold distilled water, and the solution separated from the sulphate of lime, which was again washed with a fresh portion of water, and then boiled for twenty minutes in three times its weight of carbonate of potash; the sulphate of potash was washed off with distilled water, and the carbonate of lime saturated with pure muriatic acid, diluted with a little water; the muriate of lime was dried at 212°, and weighed 54 grains.

This being deducted from 85.4 leaves 31.4 grains *b* for the muriate of magnesia.

B. a. The watery solution being evaporated to dryness, afforded 216.3 grains of muriate of soda.

C. a. The insoluble residue scarcely effervesced with diluted muriatic acid; no lime could be detected by oxalate of ammonia; but with prussiate of potash, the solution gave a light blue tinge, and when that had subsided, yielded a very slight sediment of magnesia with the caustic ammonia; what remained undissolved, was vegetable matter.

It is very evident that sulphur is precipated from this water, from the stain left in the vessels in which it has been preserved; but with regard to the proportion found after the process of evaporation, this varies considerably, for unless the degree of heat is far below the boiling point, the whole of it will be dissipated.

From these experiments, a wine gallon of the water contains, of

		Grains.
A.	*a.* Muriate of lime	54
	b. Muriate of Magnesia	31.4
B.	*a.* Muriate of Soda	216.3
C.	*a.* Vegetable matter, with a trace of iron and mugnesia	6
		307.7
	Loss muriate of Soda	3
	Total	308.

Examination of the Gaseous Contents of the Sulphureous Water.

A glass flask, which with its syphon contained exactly sixteen ounces aud two drachms, was filled with the fresh water, and gradually heated by means of a spirit lamp; the water expanded upon the first impression of the heat, the two drachms contained in the syphon, were suffered to escape, and deducted from the results of the experiment.

The boiling temperature was continued for the necesssary length of time, and the gas received over mercury, the sulphuretted hydrogen that was not decomposed by the quicksilver, was absorbed by a hot solution of nitrate of silver, and the respective proportions of the carbonic acid gas and azote were ascertained by means of lime water, to be, of

	Cubic Inches.
Carbonic acid gas	0.125
Azote	0.625
	75.

when the barometer stood at 29,8°, and the thermometer at 58°—or, per gallon, of

	Cubic Inches.
Carbonic acid gas	1
Azote	5
	6

To determine the quantity of sulphuretted hydrogen, the gaseous contents of sixteen ounces of the water were received over boiled water of the temperature of 100°, and, at the conclusion of the process, transferred into a hot solution of nitrate of silver. A diminution of bulk ensued, equal to

0.375 cubic inch;

making for the total quantity of sulphuretted ga s, per gallon, 3 cubic inches.

An idea having prevailed that the well, a few feet to the right in advancing to the sulphureous water, was stronger than the one in use, I made some comparative experiments; and found, that

Syrup of violets did not reach so dark a green; neither did the nitrate of silver or acetate of lead, indicate so large a proportion of sulphur.

Upon evaporating down a wine pint of the water, I obtained a residuum of 40 grains, or 320 grains per gallon.

A wine gallon of the sulphureous water, yielded

	Grains.
In September, 1816	308,
And in June, 1817	316

of solid contents.

ON THE

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES

OF THE

SULPHUREOUS PUMP WATER.

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS.

THIS water is much used for numerous disorders, and forms a valuable acquisition to Llandrindod: the quantity of sulphuretted hydrogen is certainly small, yet it is sufficient to give very decided sensible properties to the water.

Upon the commencement of a course, it occasions a slight fulness and giddiness of the head, which usually go off in a few days; the water greatly promotes the excretion of urine, but does not act upon the bowels so readily as the saline water.

Sulphureous waters were amongst the first noticed by the earlier writers, and we accordingly find various accounts respecting them, and many waters were suspected to contain sulphur in which it did not exist.

Ætius "writing of natural bathes, wherein brim-

stone is either onely the minor or matter of them, or chiefe matter thereof," gives us the following account of them, which he acknowledges to have received from Avicenna. "The bathes of brimstone soften the senewes, swage the payne that a man hath in desiring to goe oft unto the stoole, and when he commeth he can either doe little or nothing, they scoure and cleanse the skinne, wherefore they are good for the white morphew and blacke, for the leprosie, and for all scabs and scurffes, for old sores and botches, for the falling off humors into the joynts, for an hardened spleen or the cake in the left side, for an hardened quother, for all kind of palsies, for the sciatica, and for all kinds of itch or itching, but the bathes of brimstone hurt the stomach and do marre it."

"Agricola, in his bookes of those things which flow out of the earth, writeth thus of bathes of brimstone."

"The bathes of brimstone do soften the sinewes and doe heate, they are good therefore for palsie, for places pulled in too much or stretched too farre forth, for the shaking and trembling of any member, and they swage ache, and draw out swelling of the limmes, and drive and scatter them away; they are good therefore for the gowte in the hands, for the gowte in the feet, and for the sciatica, and other diseases in the joynts; they swage also the

pains in the liver, spleen, and drive away the swelling of them both; they scowre away freckles, and heal morphews and scabs, but they undoe and overthrow the stomack*."

It has been observed "that there is no form of combination, in which sulphur is so active and so readily diffusible as in that of union with hydrogen †;" and the success that has attended the use of sulphureous waters in many obstinate complaints, may with justice be attributed to this principle.

Waters impregnated with hepatic air possess a stimulating property; they are also diaphoretic and diuretic, and have been found very serviceable in chronic rheumatism, bilious complaints, and visceral obstructions, nor is there any good reason for supposing that they impair the tone of the stomach, when taken internally, or used in the form of a bath.

They have frequently been recommended for indigestion, when the bowels are loaded with a viscid slimy matter; in diseases that proceed from

* The rare Treasure of the English Baths, by William Turner, published in 1641, by William Bremer.

† Saundors on Mineral Waters.

leading too indolent and luxurious a life, in some asthmatic cases, in the gravel, in the scrophula and other diseases where the glands are swelled and obstructed, and have been esteemed amongst the best remedies for destroying and evacuating worms.

The drinking and bathing in these waters, more especially those of the hot kind, have been employed as effectual means of removing those evils which follow an injudicious use of mercury; and which often remain after the venereal taint is gone. They cannot, however, be taken in all cases with equal safety, and should be abstained from when there is much inflammatory action or febrile heat.

The stimulating effects of the sulphureous water at this place, are in a great measure obviated by the saline ingredients; and it is upon this account that many patients have derived advantage from it, more especially when united with an equal quantity of milk; *in chronic coughs, and troublesome expectorations from the lungs, after they had experienced the simple sulphureous water at Llanwrtyd, to be too heating for them.*

Like Harrowgate and Moffat, the sulphureous water at Llandrindod has acquired a high reputation in the cure of a number of cutaneous erup-

tions, both applied externally, and taken as other waters; in a few days the sulphur pervades the whole system, transpires through the pores of the skin, and silver worn in the pocket becomes tarnished.

The water should be drank cold and fresh from the pump, when the stomach is able to bear it, especially in those cases where the sulphureous ingredient is particularly wanted, in glasses containing half a pint each; two or three of these may be taken in the morning before breakfast, at moderate intervals, and repeated about noon.

As a general rule, the patient may commence with two half pints, and in a short time the number may be increased to six or eight; if this quantity does not procure a determination to the bowels, the saline water should be taken two or three times a week, so as to prevent any unpleasant congestion.

The invalid will always derive most benefit from beginning with a small quantity, both as it affords an opportunity of observing the effects of the water, and of regulating the dose according to the influence that it exerts. It will also be proper to remove any offensive matter from the digestive organs, by aperient medicines, previous to the commencement of the course.

In some cases, the total amount taken daily may be larger than what I have stated, and in general, the longer the course is expected to last, the doses should be smaller and more gradually augmented.

In several cutaneous diseases, when the intention is to overcome the morbid action of the skin, by the introduction of sulphur into the system, it will be most advisable to administer the water in small quantities, and to use the saline water occasionally, for the purpose of operating on the bowels. Thus the sulphureous principle will not be so liable to be carried off, and will find its way more readily into the circulation, which is probably a consideration of much importance.

The different combinations of mercury, and antimony, may often form a part of the plan of treatment for cutaneous disorders; and when they are found to resist the power of the water, and are become obstinate, the Plummer's Pill, or the oxymuriate of mercury, taken to the extent of one-eighth of a grain, twice a day, will frequently cause a change in the constitution, and promote recovery; but their employment must entirely depend on the individual case, and cannot be left to the judgment of the patient.

The same observations that have been made on

the duration of the course and rules to be observed at the time of drinking the saline water, will apply here. The sulphureous water should never be drank at meals, or even for several hours afterwards. The regimen should be simple, and consist of meats plainly dressed, with vegetables, and the use of white wine and water. The patient should retire to rest early, and get up in the morning, taking more or less sleep, as he may require.

Sleep in the day-time, especially after dinner, ought not to be indulged in. Moderate exercise, and agreeable amusements, are absolutely necessary; but all such as heat or fatigue the body, or command too close an attention and application of the mind, are prejudicial.

The sulphureous water is much assisted in its efficacy by the aid of the warm bath; and upon the methods of using this, it may be proper to say a few words.

The bath is prepared by adding to the fresh water, a sufficient quantity of water that has been made hot, to bring it to the desired temperature; and, for this purpose, the vessels should be lined with tin, as the sulphureous principle is less liable to be decomposed by that metal than any other.

The warm bath requires to be employed with some caution, on account of the determination that it occasions to the head.

It is decidedly a stimulus to the heart and arteries, more especially to the vessels of the skin; and the perspiration that it excites should be kept up for an hour, by confining the patient in bed, or in a warm room.

The sulphureous warm bath is of great service in "herpetic eruptions, attended with a constant desquamation of the cuticle in dry branny scales," in the scurvy, and many leprous affections; it gives relief in spasmodic diseases, and in contractions of the bowels, accompanied with constipation: in chronic rheumatism; in gouty complaints; in the hypochondriasis; and paralysis of the limbs.

By the increased action which the heat excites on the surface of the body, it relieves internal obstructions; and by the relaxation which it produces, very much facilitates the passage of biliary calculi. It allays nervous irritation, and induces sleep.

"The warm bath is, upon the whole, a safer remedy than the cold, and may be resorted to even

when there is a considerable degree of acute fever*."

The bath may be used on the days of drinking the water, in the morning, at noon, or in the evening; but always upon an empty stomach; and of these, the morning is the most preferable.

The degree of heat must vary, according to the circumstances of the case, from 92° to 98°, and the temperature must be increased or diminished, as the nature of the disease may require, In general, a bath at the temperature of 92° Fah. will be most advantageous; but in "paralysis the heat may be as high as it can be conveniently borne†."

The time of remaining in the bath must be determined by the age and constitution of the patient, and may extend from eight or ten, to twenty minutes.

The vapour bath can be made of a higher temperature than the water bath: it acts much in the same manner, viz. as a stimulus; and it relaxes the skin and system in general.

When the seat of debility and stiffness is local, and confined to a particular joint great benefit will be derived from pumping on the part, and the subsequent use of friction

* Saunders. † Dr. Saunders.

The slime, or mud, collected from the channel over which the water flows, has been esteemed as an outward remedy for old wounds and ill-conditioned ulcers; and this practice of dressing sores with the mud from particular waters, appears to be of very ancient date. *Much benefit* could not be expected from it, and certainly the curds (that are now substituted) obtained by boiling together equal parts of the sulphureous water and milk, form a more elegant application.*

* Dr. Linden's observations on the sulphur water, are very curious and instructive, and his directions for making it into a bath, highly necessary to be known; but as those observations and directions apply to sulphur waters generally we shall introduce them elsewhere, when treating of similar springs.

P.

ANALYSIS

OF THE

FFYNON CWM Y GOF, OR WELL OF THE BLACKSMITH'S DINGLE.

SOMETIMES CALLED

THE EYE WATER.

BY RICHARD WILLIAMS.

THE eye water issues from the same rock as the saline carbonated chalybeate, and forms a small well, rising from between the crevices of the rock, and discharging its waters into the brook. It has never been inclosed, and is subject to great alteration, both in its temperature and the proportion of its solid contents, from the influence of the atmosphere, and the vicissitudes of the seasons.

This water differs chiefly from the other springs, in containing *sulphuric acid* in a combined state, and in the quantity of muriate of magnesia, which exceeds that of the muriate of lime.

I expected to find a sulphate of iron and sulphate of alumina produced by the decomposition of the iron pyrites and aluminous schistus; but could not

discover that either of them entered into the composition of the water.

When taken up fresh from the well, the water is rather milky and opaque, it sends forth no air bubbles or perceptible smell, To the taste it is saline, and devoid of the briskness that makes the saline water so agreeable to the stomach.

In 1816, the temperature of the well varied from 60° to 64°.

The specific gravity of the fresh water was 1002*

* Mr. Williams has here, as in the other waters, stated his experiments, and given the medicinal qualities of the Eye Water; but as its very designation implies the service for which it is destined, we shall no longer detain the reader, especially as our mutilated copy of Mr. Williams's work is deprived of its last two leaves, which treat of Eye Water.

RIDES AND DRIVES

TO THE

North, and to the North East,

OF

LLANDRINDOD.

ESCAPED, at length, from the medical department of this place, which, although undoubtedly the most useful, may be the least entertaining, we now hope to refresh the reader by an introduction to the scenic, the pictorial, and literary portion of it.

A ride or drive due north, and afterwards inclining easterly, for four miles leads to what may be considered a miracle in this district—a genteel Village; for such Pen y-Bont most assuredly is, although on a confined scale. Through it runs the London road, rendered lively by the daily passing of coaches; and across it, the river Ithon, remarkable for its picturesque meanderings, and the excellence of its numerous scaly inhabitants. At its western end, the London road to Cardiganshire is crossed by another turnpike, which forms the straight communication between north and south Wales. From this intersection the Rhaiader and Newtown roads the gentlemen

of the neighbouring estates, assisted by the Radnorshire Trustees are forming a new line of road towards Rhaiader, which will be nearly level and much shorter than the present one. Considering the great labour and expence of the undertaking, this will certainly be one of the greatest improvements ever made in this country. It will be finished, if possible, by the spring of 1826. The first object that strikes us on entering Pen-y-Bont, is a neat residence on the left, with an agreeable southerly aspect, standing on an elevated bank, with a meadow before, backed by plantations. It is the property of Middleton Jones, Esq., proprietor of two of the Llandrindod springs. Looking suddenly to the right, we are agreeably struck with a pleasing sight, the truly elegant mansion of J. C. Severn, Esq., presents its respectable front, well sheltered with considerable plantations, and chastely ornamented with tasteful walks, well-dressed flowery lawns and a beautiful sheet of water, Lower down, on the left side of the road stands the Severn Arms Inn, and Post Office, a superior looking tenement, where the coaches change horses. It is kept by Mr. Parton, who by his attention, civility, and good accomodation gives the best assurance that he merits the good success he meets in his business. A few yards lower down is the bridge over the Ithon, which gives name to the Village, as Pen-y-Bont signifies *Head of the Bridge*. Over the bridge are some respectable looking shops, and humble dwellings. The rapidity with which

this Village sprung into existence, the maturity of its appearance speak decisively for the taste and perseverance of the projector, J. C. Severn, Esq., whose mansion, the principal object in it, was completed only in 1818. The Village, it is true, existed many years ago, but in a comparative rude state, at which time, strange to say, the Radnorshire Bank was established here by the late John Price, Esq., a very eccentric and enterprising character, who possessed the great merit of being "the architect of his own fortune" having risen to affluence and honour entirely by his own industry, which placed him at last, at the head of an extensive banking firm, and the master of a well-earned, enviable independence. Pen-y-Bont is in the parish of Llanbadarn Vawr,* the church of which lies on

* There are many churches thus called in Wales, but the principal of all is Llanbadarn Vawr, near Aberystwith, Cardiganshire. It signifies *Great Padern Church*, from a celebrated saint so named. Cressy, and Archbishop Usher say "the sanctity of St. Dubricius and St. David drew into Britain from foreign parts, St. Paternus, a devout young man, about the year 516, together with 847 monks, who fixed themselves with him in a place called Mauritania, which was raised to the dignity of an episcopal see, which he governed for 21 years; from him it was called Paternensis. He was recalled into his own native country of lesser Britanny, where he was made Bishop of Vannes, leaving Kinoc as his succesor to the former Bishopric". Mauritania is said to be a latinized name of Llanbadarn Vawr. A further account of him will be given when we treat of Aberystwith.

the road from Llandrindod here, about three miles from the former, and from hence one. It is a rectory valued at about £250. per Annum.

Near Llanbadarn Vawr, is a very picturesque alpine bridge called Pont-y-Graig, over the Ithon, which the visitors of Llandrindod often go to see and take Sketches. Instead of the road to New Radnor, we shall now take a straight northern course from Llandrindod, about four miles from which, commences a beautiful private road, made at the expence of Mr. Severn, and two neighbouring gentlemen, which continues about three miles, and is terminated by an old Manor House and Park, the property of that gentlemen in right of Mrs. Severn, called Devanner Park. It is a venerable and most picturesque pile, once it seems, the residence of Cambrian royalty, but afterwards granted by Rhys, Prince of Wales to a convent of Cistercian monks, and on the dissolution of religious houses, in the time of Henry VIII., granted by the crown to the Fowler family; the male branch of which, has long been extinct. In the reign of James II. Devanner House was the residence of Sir William Fowler, whose very extensive manor of Gollen, and the principal part of his posessions in this Country, now belong also to Mr. Severn, in right of his lady. It was the occasional residence of Sir William, Sir Hans, and Sir Richard Fowler. Hans, Earl of Huntingdon was born here, and his

elder brother killed, while a boy, by the kick of a horse. This venerable and interesting vestige of antiquity has been restored by Mr. Severn to a resemblance of its ancient state, a circumstance that cannot fail to insure the applause of all men of taste especially those, who are enthusiastic admirers of our picturesque remains of antiquity.

Three miles north from Pen-y-Bont is Llandewi Ystradenny, a small Village, situate in a narrow vale near the river Ithon, containing a few straggling houses; and the church, a tolerable structure, consisting of a nave and chancel, with two small tablets, in commemoration of Phillips and Burton; the worthlessness of the latter has been softened by the pen of sycophancy into "an eccentric character"; but if the "*small tablet*" which records both his existance and death were meant to typify his littleness of soul, it would be difficult to find one diminutive enough. He resided here, very penuriously, in a large old house, and possessed a considerable estate in the neighbourhood, which, to the exclusion of his relatives, *because they were poor*, he basely devised to a wealthy provincial! If there is a scoundrel baseness, a mental degradation marking the most decided abjectness of soul, surpassing all others in its abuses of the social compact, it is an heartless, cold-blooded act like this, which often leaves to waste, in corrosive rust, the brightest link in the chain of consanguinity—

the poor helpless one, the lost sheep of the fold! It illustrates to the life, the truth of character exemplified in that dœmon of selfishness, Massenger's hero, Sir Giles Overreach; who is made to say—

"We wordly men, when we see friends and kinsmen
Past hope, sunk in their fortunes, lend no hand
To lift them up, but rather set our feet
Upon their heads, to press them to the bottom."

Ben Jonson, too, in his "Staple of News" has a passage much in point

"Virtue and Honesty—hang'em!
Poor thin membranes of honor—who respects them?
Oh the fates!
How hath all just, true reputation fallen,
Since money, this base money, 'gan to have any!"

Since it is to the purpose, I make no apology for quoting the following Stanzas from an unpublished Comic Poem of mine, called, "*Davydd ab Gwilym*," which I intend shortly to print in a work that will bear the title of "THE WORTHIES OF WALES, celebrated in VARIOUS HISTORICAL POEMS."

"Here I think it needful to observe.
And I remark it with a wincing grin,
As well such sore place truly may deserve,
The strangeness of relations to their kin,
Whose narrow fortunes bid them leanly carve,—
Poverty alone their deadly sin:
(Not that mine have left me so to starve,

For I have independence—that's *within*:)
To those in affluence, high state, and station,
What a curst *eye-sore* is a poor relation.
Pride, or shame, which ever it may be,
Will prompt them, sometimes to be wonderous civil,
To send them to a distance off—to sea—
Could wishes do it, even to the devil;
Out of the world, at any rate: for me,
I can't swear mine are quite so sunk in evil.
The rich and heartless one, but *power* lacks
To shoot such scrubs, as Planters do the blacks.

It is not to be regretted that such a man as this Burton, should have a record of his "having been," although his merit could never entitle him even to the Idle Man's epitaph,

"He lived—and then he died."

It is to be hoped that no mistaken zeal or blind resentment, like that of the Irishman's, who burnt the bank notes to be revenged of the bankers, will induce men of a contrary character to pull down the tablet, as it will suit admirably to "point a moral," if not "to adorn a tale."

In this district are several vestiges of antiquity, particularly the Gaer, or fortification which occupies the summit of a high hill, close to the village, a camp of great extent, inaccessible on the Ithon side; the remainder is defended by two parallel intrenchments, probably the work of some of the Mortimers, or, as some conjecture, of Cadwalon in

the twelfth century. On a hill opposite is Bedd Ygre, *Ygre's grave*, a large mound, or tumulus of earth, encompassed by a small moat. Of this description were all the monuments which the ancient Britons erected in honor of their Chiefs, or great men; and these continued many ages after the introduction of christianity; but when the custom of burying in churches, and church yards became general, they were discontinued, and afterwards used chiefly for criminals. From the top of Bedd Ygre there is a very extensive prospect, and the spot has lately been very much improved by Mr. Severn, of Pen-y-Bont, who has made a very fine plantation between it and Llandewi. Several of this gentleman's estates, in the neighbourhood, bear the name of Bedd Ygre.

Although vehemently despising the sickening strains of adulation so frequently tendered by needy writers at the shrine of the "wealthy worthless," I feel happy to yield my humble mite of approbation of those who are a blessing to any country so fortunate as to possess them, that evince by their works their just claim to our admiration and gratitude: that Mr. Severn is pre-eminently such, is a homely truism to which a great portion of this long neglected country bears honorable witness. In addition to the improvements made and continually making on his own extensive estates, Radnorshire is much indebted to his spirited indefatigable and

For I have independence—that's *within* :)
To those in affluence, high state, and station,
What a curst *eye-sore* is a poor relation.
Pride, or shame, which ever it may be,
Will prompt them, sometimes to be wonderous civil,
To send them to a distance off—to sea—
Could wishes do it, even to the devil ;
Out of the world, at any rate : for me,
I can't swear mine are quite so sunk in evil.
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successful exertions. The gentlemen in this country generally are much to be commended for recent improvements on the turnpike roads, in which they have been liberally aided by the Radnorshire trust. Thusthe road between Newtown and Llandrindod forming the long and much wanted communication between north and south Wales has been accomplished between them, and the Montgomeryshire trustees, and opened about two years ago. It is but justice to add, that the latter gentlemen are continually adding to their improvements on it. We have now an unimpeded conveyance from the Wye to the Severn, a direct carriage road from the Bristol Channel, through Brecon, Builth, Newtown, &c. to Chester.

Two miles from Bedd Ygre, on a small elevation stood the Castle of Cymaron, of which not a fragment of the superstructure remains; the site and moat are still visible. This fortress is supposed to have been erected by the Normans, in the eleventh century, but soon after destroyed by the Welsh, and again rebuilt by Hugh, the son of Randolph, earl of Chester, in 1142, when Maelienydd became subject to the Normans.

In 1174, Cadwallon ap Madawc obtained this castle and lordship, for which he did homage to Henry; but Roger Mortimer, having raised a considerable force in 1194, entered Maelienydd, and after various battles dispossessed Cadwallon of all

his lands in this district, and fortified the castle of Cymaron.

In this family it evidently continued for ages, as we find, near two centuries after that Roger Mortimer, in 1360 died, possessed of the castles of Cnuelas, Gwyrthrinion, Cwmdeuddwr, Maelienydd, and Pilleth, in the same lordship, which perhaps, on the demise of Prince Llewelyn, in 1282, Edward the First confirmed as a legal inheritance. Henry the Eighth, however, being of a Welsh extraction, curtailed the power and ambition of the provincial lords, and redressed many grievances to which the Welsh were before subject; and divided the principality into counties and hundreds, with the same laws and privileges as his English subjects. About three miles from Llandewi, is the small village of Llanbister, containing nothing remarkable, we next come to another small village called Llanbadarn Vynidd, where wharfs have been lately established, for the sale of coal, slate, and other materials which come to Newtown by the Montgomeryshire canal Between Llanbister and Llanbadarn Vynidd, about two miles to the left of the road is Crychell the property of Evan Stephens, Esq., of Newtown. Near Newtown stands the ancient mansion of Newtown Hall, the property and residence of the Rev. Mr. Evors. Newtown has nothing imposing in its appearance, although it has risen surprisingly within these few years by the

flannel manufactories. The buildings are increased to treble their former number; and the natives have now to boast of a canal, steam-engines, and very considerable manufactories; while their markets are always thronged to excess. Here we rest awhile, and hasten to close this article on Llandrindod, the rest of the rides from which, appertain more immediately to Llandegley and Blaen-Edw Wells.

From information received since writing the article headed "A brief history of Llandrindod," it will be necessary to add, that the premature demolition of Llandrindod Hall took place by the orders of the then proprietor, the late Mr. Jones of Pen-cerrig, who deeming his property become the resort of profligate noblemen, jockies, black-legs, and all descriptions of elegant swindlers, caused it, from religious scruples, to be pulled down, fearing that, to punish their enormites, a judgement would befall the place. I have not been able to learn what became of Mr. Grosvenor or his family; but it is conjectured that he returned to Shrewsbury. He had an only daughter, of whose eccentricities there are here many anecdotes afloat among the old people. It seems she was both a spirited and an accomplished girl, a *belle*, a beauty, and a toast, though rather of a masculine turn in the selection of her amusements. She excelled in horsemanship, and was so expert a rider, that, in the chase neither hedges, ditches

or rivers, could prevent her from being in at the death. It is related that at one time she crossed the Wye after the hounds when the river was much flooded, and while the sportsmen stood hesitating on the bank, she laughed at their timidity, dashed across the stream, calling out, "come along gentlemen! I'm determined to be in at the death;" and kept her word accordingly. She is also said to have played with taste and skill on the harp and piano, and possessed a good voice; but in these accomplishments she discovered her usual eccentric fancy in the choice of her songs, one of which, a satire on her own sex, has been handed down to us by the name of "The Caution," which I lately met accidentally in an old song book: and as it has some merit, especially in the last stanza, it is here presented to the reader. She is said to have sung it with much archness, and pointed satirical application.

"From sweet bewitching tricks of love
Young men your hearts secure,
Lest from the paths of sense you rove
In dotage premature:
Look at each lass
Through window's glass,
Nor trust the naked eye:
Gallants beware,
Look sharp, take care,
The blind eat many a fly.

Not only on their hands and necks
The borrow'd white you'll find,
Some *belles*, when interest directs
Can even paint the mind;
Joy in distress
They can express,
Their very tears can lie;
Gallants beware,
Look sharp, take care,
The blind eat many a fly.

There's not a spinster in the realm,
But all mankind can cheat,
Down to the cottage from the helm,
The learn'd, the brave, and great;
With lovely looks,
And golden hooks
To entangle each they try:
Gallants beware,
Look sharp, take care,
The blind eat many a fly.

Could we with ink the ocean fill,
Was earth of parchment made,
Was every single stick a quill,
Each man a scribe by trade;
To write the tricks
Of half the sex
Would suck that ocean dry:
Gallants beware,
Look sharp, take care,
The blind eat many a fly."

EVIDENCES

OF THE EXISTENCE OF

IRON STONE, AND COAL,

AT

LLANDRINDOD.

THAT the title of this article will excite the surprise of many, is to be expected, and the indignation of those who are interested in opposing such discoveries no less certain, to whom it will be high treason perhaps, to doubt the infallibility of Mr. Martin's book.* I am far from thinking Mr. Martin's work was written to favor the views of great monopolists, although it may have that effect, and prevent inquiries into the existence of those minerals in other districts than those, which are said to contain them. In one thing the people of Radnor-

* On the progress of the veins and strata, Theophilus Jones says "the principal source of our subterranean wealth arises from our contiguity to what Mr. Martin calls the South Wales mineral bason, a map of which has been lately published, in the philosophical transactions, but which I should rather call *a mineral marrow spoon*, to which it bears a greater resemblance." For further information of the interest, on this subject *Vide Jones's Breconshire*, vol. II. Page 761.

shire are to be particularly cautioned, which is, to place no credence whatever in the reports of the agents who may be sent from different collieries, ostensibly, to examine, but in reality to put the question to sleep by plausible cant, and a vast deal of jargon about the formation of the coal basin, which they assert, could never, by any possibility, extend to this country; or that if it did, must of necessity *stand some miles aloft in the air!* which, perhaps, is true enough, according to their system, but systems in this age of inquiry, sometimes prove erroneous and fall to the ground. There is a very general report that the last person who came here to examine for mines was bribed by persons interested in the Brecon Canal; and the probability of its being a fact is not without colour. It is not to be wondered at, if the parties who are making immense, nay, princely fortunes, by the Iron Works and Collieries of Wales, should spend thousands of pounds, to prevent the discovery of coal and iron stone at Llandrindod. With this consideration, it is to be hoped the juggling of disguised hirelings will not in future be successful. Their usual trick is, to fix on places of the least probability to make their search, and practice their knavery on the land proprietors by prolonging the job, so as to increase the expence, and ultimately disgusting them from any further, or future inquiry.

Dr. Linden's knowledge of Metallurgy, and his acquaintance with mines, although but

an early chemist, are well evinced throughout his works, from which I mean merely to give a few extracts on the present subject, without any comment, so that the reader may draw his own conclusions: although the absence of lime stone here would induce me to dissent from the learned Doctor's opinion.

"Now I come to prove the existence of that mineral called Pit-coal, well known to the inhabitants of Great Britain, being in general use and esteem amongst them for fuel; but this being unheard of, or at least never found in these parts, I shall meet with nothing but incredulity. Even the inhabitants of Llandrindod, though the coal discovers itself both to the taste and smell, and though they are in the utmost want of this useful fossil, will not willingly credit me; nay I apprehend their censure for bringing the principle of coal mines into their darling fountain. I would be understood to mean that a purgative chalybeate, such as the Llandrindod rock water, strains through beds of coal, or is to be met with in every coal pit, which would be absurd, for I am well aware that such a water as percolates over coal is no way fit for medical purposes, but it is a poisonous emetic. Nevertheless I aver and pronounce in order to be rightly understood in what I am going to prove from real facts, *that a saline* chalybeate water is in no corner of the world to be met with, nay cannot possible exist, unless the rarefied damps

at least within two miles distance from a bed of coal, come in subterraneous passages, and intervene with the generative matters that constitute such a water. Dr. Henkel was the first who was of opinion that no sort of salts could exist, or be generated in the bowels of the earth, unless assisted by coal damps. He made the discovery of changing iron ore into perfect coal, and coal again into what salt he pleased. He remarked that coal was seldom found without iron-stone, and had likewise observed, how shortly coal altered its bed, provided it happened to be ventilated with a strong current of damps, rushing through subterraneous passages. Let us range all Europe over, and we shall find the greater part of saline chalybeate waters, seated within two or three miles of collieries, and the rest at the same or less distance from saline springs, out of which common English salt may be made. Let us examine the terrestrious matter, which is precipitated, or separated in the making of all kitchen salt, whether it be crystallized out of Rock salt, sea water, or a salt spring, and we shall always perceive, in this matter, a succinated scent, or a smell like that, which is emitted from yellow amber. And for further proof we shall find therein a real asphaltas, such as is common to, or concomitant with all pit-coal, the Pembrokeshire culm excepted. Culm properly speaking, is a black lime stone, plentifully impregnated with sulphureous damps. Hence it is that culm has actually been a limestone, and that it is

changed into a slate, similar to coal, is immediately proved by smelting it with lead ore, when the essential properties and characteristics of lime appear. The aluminous mineral, and salt springs are always certain signs of coal being in the neighbourhood. A fœtid sulphureous fountain, is again, another sign of coal; and in the neighbourhood of Llandrindod, there are to my knowledge four or five of them. Turbaries, again, are the effect of damps, and exhalations of coal: and as I have met with several other certain indications of that fossil, in the neighbourhood of Llandrindod, I hope the inhabitants will soon be blessed with it. Nor is it to be doubted, since it stands confirmed by experience that these effluvia pervade all mineral beds, and by those means agitate the different ingredients, that enter the composition of salt, excite their mixture, and bring on an union of parts; and as this agitation lasts as long as the damps act uninterrupted, so the water is supplied with a new-generated salt. For was the saline matter washed from a particular bed, as from a magazine, it would be emptied and worn away in space of time; but that it is supplied by the mediation of these effluvia has been verified and experienced in many places, where the saline principles have become deficient, nay ceased, whenever the exhaltations have been interrupted in the subterranean caverns. Thus far I think, is sufficient to prove that coal damps

have a share in generating and finishing the rock water; and that this spring would entirely be divested of salt, was it not for the effluvia of coal, that mix with the other generative and productive matter which constitutes this water." Again the Doctor says, "about two miles north from the medical springs I expect a bed of coal: indeed it is the greatest astonishment to me imaginable, that there has been no attempt made to find out this valuable fossil in that neighbourhood, when the great book of nature gives us the most certain indications of its existence there. For whenever there is brine or water that will make common salt, there is certainly coal through that zonic." Again he remarks, "this mineral bitumen is certainly the effect of coals, that are contained in the mineral zonic of Llandrindod, and I donbt not in the least but that the beds of coal in this zonic range a great way, aud that they have their natural connexion with other collieries of South Wales." There are many observations scattered throughout the pages of Dr. Linden's work, to prove the existence of Iron Stone at Llandrindod, but the following extracts shall suffice for all. "As to the existence of Iron Stone at Llandrindod, I hope no one will question it, especially since the slate rock, out of which this water springs, abounds therewith, which the most common experiment in metallurgy will make evident."

LLANDEGLEY WELLS,

RADNORSHIRE.

ABOUT six miles north-east of Llandrindod, and two miles from Pen-y-Bont, on the high road to New Radnor, stands the village of Llandegley, remarkable for its antique church and the beauty of its adjacent scenery, and still more for two mineral springs, which never have been noticed by either historian or tourist. Those *small travellers* yclept tourists, very much resemble the commentators on Shakespear, described by Young,

"Who hold their farthing rush-light to the Sun."

treating only on those subjects and places already well known, while many an object worthy of note, and of high interest to the public, are passed without a record. In the present day, Bingley's North Wales, Malkin's South Wales, and Nicholson's Traveller's Guide, are the only works whose fidelity of description and general correctness can be depended on. The miserable shifts, and continually at the expence of truth, to make the book *entertaining*,

The inn here, is called the Burton Arms, from the proprietor Edward Burton, Esq. of Shrewsbury; kept by a person named Boulter. As to the assiduities at this inn, with the good manners and character of the people, I can myself bear witness, with the addition, that the accommodations are very superior to those above described, and the "little inn," is larger and kept by different people. The reader may be assured that a few visitors who may wish to drink these waters and reside awhile, may be very creditably accommodated at the Burton Arms, or Llandegley House, as they sometimes call the inn. Mrs. Boulter is not only very obliging, and her fare good, but she possesses considerable capacity in making her visitors comfortable; and it is to be regretted that so good a manager has not a better field to exert her talents in.

The wells are two; one a very strong sulphureous spring, lies in a meadow facing the inn, the other, a chalybeate, a few yards to the west, on the bank of a brook, over which is a rustic bridge, and canopied by the trunk and branches of an old alder clump.

The sulphureous spring has a hut tiled with slates built over it, and the water is received from a spout into a large stone trough, in which the people have been accustomed to bathe. If, in compliment to the established celebrity of ot[illegible]

more is recorded of their merits, it is not because Llandegley is in any degree inferior, as I doubt much if there is a spring in Wales more strongly impregnated with sulphur than this. To avoid tedious repetitions, the instructions which are given for drinking, or bathing in the Llanwrtyd water will apply equally to this, as, being a sulphur water like that, it is efficacious for the same complaints. For the scrophula, and cutaneous diseases generally, it has often proved a successful remedy, and families from the counties of Hereford and Worcester, have long been in the habit of sending for *cargoes* of it, in jars, casks, and bottles packed in hampers.

The other spring is a strong, but simple chalybeate, neither ascidulous, sulphureous, nor saline to the taste, but precisely like that spring at Aberystwith, when it is not mixed with the sea-water, which is rarely the case, and only at the time of high tides. The spirits are excited, and the appetite improved by a perseverance in its rule; and in a variety of disorders where steel may be required, it will prove of great service. It is recommended to be drank fasting at eight o'clock in the morning, and again between breakfast and dinner, gradually increasing the dose acc ording to the age or habit.

r here, the patient, above
self with aperient physic,
uld be extremel

For I have independence—that's *within*:)
To those in affluence, high state, and station,
What a curst *eye-sore* is a poor relation.
Pride, or shame, which ever it may be,
Will prompt them, sometimes to be wonderous civil,
To send them to a distance off—to sea—
Could wishes do it, even to the devil;
Out of the world, at any rate: for me,
I can't swear mine are quite so sunk in evil.
The rich and heartless one, but *power* lacks
To shoot such scrubs, as Planters do the blacks.

It is not to be regretted that such a man as this Burton, should have a record of his "having been," although his merit could never entitle him even to the Idle Man's epitaph,

"He lived—and then he died."

It is to be hoped that no mistaken zeal or blind resentment, like that of the Irishman's, who burnt the bank notes to be revenged of the bankers, will induce men of a contrary character to pull down the tablet, as it will suit admirably to "point a moral," if not "to adorn a tale."

In this district are several vestiges of antiquity, particularly the Gaer, or fortification which occupies the summit of a high hill, close to the village, a camp of great extent, inaccessible on the Ithon side; the remainder is defended by two parallel intrenchments, probably the work of some of the Mortimers, or, as some conjecture, of Cadwalon in

the twelfth century. On a hill opposite is Bedd Ygre, *Ygre's grave*, a large mound, or tumulus of earth, encompassed by a small moat. Of this description were all the monuments which the ancient Britons erected in honor of their Chiefs, or great men; and these continued many ages after the introduction of christianity; but when the custom of burying in churches, and church yards became general, they were discontinued, and afterwards used chiefly for criminals. From the top of Bedd Ygre there is a very extensive prospect, and the spot has lately been very much improved by Mr. Severn, of Pen-y-Bont, who has made a very fine plantation between it and Llandewi. Several of this gentleman's estates, in the neighbourhood, bear the name of Bedd Ygre.

Although vehemently despising the sickening strains of adulation so frequently tendered by needy writers at the shrine of the "wealthy worthless," I feel happy to yield my humble mite of approbation of those who are a blessing to any country so fortunate as to possess them, that evince by their works their just claim to our admiration and gratitude: that Mr. Severn is pre-eminently such, is a homely truism to which a great portion of this long neglected country bears honorable witness. In addition to the improvements made and continually making on his own extensive estates, Radnorshire is much indebted to his spirited indefatigable and

successful exertions. The gentlemen in this country generally are much to be commended for recent improvements on the turnpike roads, in which they have been liberally aided by the Radnorshire trust. Thusthe road between Newtown and Llandrindod forming the long and much wanted communication between north and south Wales has been accomplished between them, and the Montgomeryshire trustees, and opened about two years ago. It is but justice to add, that the latter gentlemen are continually adding to their improvements on it. We have now an unimpeded conveyance from the Wye to the Severn, a direct carriage road from the Bristol Channel, through Brecon, Builth, Newtown, &c. to Chester.

Two miles from Bedd Ygre, on a small elevation stood the Castle of Cymaron, of which not a fragment of the superstructure remains; the site and moat are still visible. This fortress is supposed to have been erected by the Normans, in the eleventh century, but soon after destroyed by the Welsh, and again rebuilt by Hugh, the son of Randolph, earl of Chester, in 1142, when Maelienydd became subject to the Normans.

In 1174, Cadwallon ap Madawc obtained this castle and lordship, for which he did homage to Henry; but Roger Mortimer, having raised a considerable force in 1194, entered Maelienydd, and after various battles dispossessed Cadwallon of all

his lands in this district, and fortified the castle of Cymaron.

In this family it evidently continued for ages, as we find, near two centuries after that Roger Mortimer, in 1360 died, possessed of the castles of Cnuelas, Gwyrthrinion, Cwmdeuddwr, Maelienydd, and Pilleth, in the same lordship, which perhaps, on the demise of Prince Llewelyn, in 1282, Edward the First confirmed as a legal inheritance. Henry the Eighth, however, being of a Welsh extraction, curtailed the power and ambition of the provincial lords, and redressed many grievances to which the Welsh were before subject; and divided the principality into counties and hundreds, with the same laws and privileges as his English subjects. About three miles from Llandewi, is the small village of Llanbister, containing nothing remarkable, we next come to another small village called Llanbadarn Vynidd, where wharfs have been lately established, for the sale of coal, slate, and other materials which come to Newtown by the Montgomeryshire canal. Between Llanbister and Llanbadarn Vynidd, about two miles to the left of the road is Crychell the property of Evan Stephens, Esq., of Newtown. Near Newtown stands the ancient mansion of Newtown Hall, the property and residence of the Rev. Mr. Evors. Newtown has nothing imposing in its appearance, although it has risen surprisingly within these few years by the

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which is almost black. The whole scene is overspread with loose fragments, which are broken off by storms, and roll down in every direction. Roots and fibres start occasionally from the crevices; but they put forth no shoots to enliven the dark and dreary grandeur, or add the picturesque to the astonishing. The light from above is nearly shut out by the projecting crags, which seem ready to fall on the intruder below. The masses are very large, their forms uncouthly grand, and their elevations giddy. From the extremity of this chasm, but not from the highest part, a cataract rushes over the projecting edges of the rock, down a precipice of seventy feet in perpendicular height. Smaller cascades trickle down scantily on each side, and join the larger body below. An insulated mass of rock stands erect above the great water-fall, about twenty feet high. The attrition of the water, forcing its passage on each side, has so far worn its base, as to render it much slighter than the top. The grandeur is much heightened by this circumstance, and perhaps by the sensation of danger that accompanies it. Notwithstanding these strongly-marked and uncommon features, there are few scenes so much talked of, that so little realize expectation. This is not the fault of the spot itself, but of the country in which it is placed. Were the approach to it through a luxuriant dell, or a woody and romantic dingle, nothing could exceed the surprise it would create, the mingled emotions of awe and pleasure, to which it would

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rior size and flavor, by the monks of Strata Florida. But it seems these ancient ecclesiastics (proverbially lovers of good cheer) have left no other memorial of their "having been," excepting their erection of Pont-y-Vynach, or Monk's Bridge, in Cardiganshire; which the English *legend-makers*, with the laudable idea of embellishing their *precious* tours with a sprinkle of the marvellous, have re-christened, and called the Devil's Bridge, with a very silly tale of *home manufacture*, for an explanatory accompaniment.

So large a pool in such a situation is really a curiosity. It abounds with carp and remarkable large eels, some of which have weighed from six to seven pounds. Its flood is discharged at one end in a stream large enough to turn a mill. The tenant of Blaen Edwy farm used to keep a boat on it till lately, when it was worn out by hard service. In Cardiganshire and several counties of North Wales, it is true, there are phenomena of the same kind as this, but of much greater magnitude and curiosity.

The two high roads, one from Builth, and the other from Rhaiader towards New Radnor, form an angle along the two sides of Llynhilyn. The views from hence are bold and rugged but not very beautiful, some, indeed, are really repulsive. A plantation of Scotch Fir would both interest and add beauty

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Warlike implements are found in great numbers by the natives, who busy themselves in digging about the castle hill in the hope of finding treasure. New Radnor still retains its corporate privileges. The corporation consists of a bailiff, twenty-five capital burgesses, two aldermen, a recorder, coroner, town clerk, sergeants at mace, &c. The bailiff and aldermen are elected annually out of the capital burgesses, and while in office, are justices of the peace, within the jurisdiction of the borough: the bailiff retains his commission as Justice, for one year after he goes out of office. The qualification for a burgess of New Radnor, is a *bona fide* residence within the jurisdiction at the time of his election. The whole number of burgesses, with those of the contributary boroughs is from 12 to 1400.

At Harpton, between Old and New Radnor, near the seat of Thomas Franklin Lewis, Esq. M. P. is a very large oak, said to girt twenty-seven or twenty-eight feet.

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OLD RADNOR, or Pen-y-Graig, *Head of the Rock*, as it is called in Welsh, was once a place of note, with a strong castle, though now but an humble village. Its church is large and venerable, the interior of which is adorned with many interesting monuments, and a screen of rich and curious

workmanship. Near it runs a Roman road, and at a short distance are the Stanner Rocks, on the summit of which is found a profusion of beautiful wild flowers peculiar to the spot. By the common people it is called the Devil's Garden. A correspondent in the Cambro Briton very justly says, "the Stanner Rocks, between Radnor and Kington, are grand and romantic; but from the summit of the forest, he that has an eye to see nature, and a heart to feel the pleasures of the sublime, may feast the senses in the most delightful manner with the distant view of mountain over mountain. In ascending from Llanvihangel, you seem to leave behind a grotesque set of inferior hills, while you mount the summit, and on your right you have hollows, vales and eminences, surmounted at a distance, with a still loftier region of hills and mountainous tracts, until you gain the height, and Cader Arthur, or the Brecknock Beacons, then are beheld in the cloud. Looking westward and northward, you see some of the proudest fortresses and garrisons of nature's kingdom, and in a different direction the Malvern Hills, which divide the counties of Hereford and Worcester." Charles I. after the battle of Naseby, and during his flight from the parliament forces, slept on the 6th of August, 1645, at the Priory House in Brecon, and dined with Sir Henry Williams of Gwernyved; thence he continued his rout to Old Radnor, where he supped on the 7th,

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Being furnished with every thing suitable for so important an undertaking, he set out, and marched with his troops through Gaul to the sea-coast, from whence they were to embark for the island; but a sudden mutiny rose among the soldiers, who having been informed of the rough treatment which Julius Cæsar had met with, protested against the extreme dangers they should have to encounter, when transported as it were, into a new world, to fight against fierce barbarians.

"The refusal of the soldiers, which seemed at first so unpromising," observes Dr. Smollett, "contributed in the event to the success of the enterprize; for the Britons, being informed of the mutiny, intermitted in the measures they were taking to defend the coast, so that when the Roman army submitted of their own accord to the orders of their general, they made a descent on the island without opposition." The contrary winds they met with rather terrified them on their passage, until a meteor appeared in the East, from which they prognosticated the happy event of their expedition. This descent of the Romans on the British shores, was in the year of Christ 45, being the third of the reign of Claudius.

The sons of Cunobelin had sent an embassy to Rome, to justify their conduct with respect to the manner in which they had acted towards Bericus,

requesting that that fugitive might be sent back; but the deputies were treated with disdain, and the princes were reproached for neglecting to pay the tribute which Cæsar had imposed upon them. Caractacus, and his brother, were incensed to the highest degree, by the treatment which the Roman court offered to their ambassadors; and as, in consequence of such an open rupture, they naturally expected an invasion, they made suitable preparations to meet their danger. But the obstinate mutiny among the Roman troops made them relax in their efforts, concluding, very fallaciously, that the present expedition was to terminate in a manner similar to that under Caligula. In consequence of this false confidence, the chiefs withdrew their troops into the interior, leaving the coast open and defenceless. Some may infer, that this measure arose from the policy of the Britons; intending by their retreat into their fastnesses in the woods, to weary out an enemy too powerful to be met in the field, but whom they might hope to surround, and cut off, by various stratagems.

Plautius having landed in Kent, advanced into the country as far as the Thames, which he is supposed to have crossed at Wallingford.* His first engagement with the two brothers was in Oxford-

* Smollett's History, Vol. I. p. 46.

shire, when he defeated them in two pitched battles. The submission of the Dobuni was the consequence of these actions. The Britons were now retired to a situation on the other side of the Thames, where they deemed themselves secure, the river being there, as they supposed, impassible. Their conjecture was false, for a party of Germans, according to their usual custom, swam over first, in their armour; these were followed by a detachment of Romans, under the command of Flavius Vespasian, afterwards emperor, and his brother Sabinus, who, falling upon the Britons with great fury, obliged them to give way, after a vast number of their horse and charioteers were cut off. Notwithstanding this discomfiture, the Britons were daring enough, on the following day, to charge the Romans with such intrepidity, as almost to have routed them; until the fortune of the day was turned, by Caius Sidius Geta, an inferior officer, who, for his valour, and good conduct, obtained great honor.* Caractacus and the Britons, after this unsuccessful effort, drew back towards the mouth of the Thames; and, being well acquainted with the country, they were so expert, as to cross over the river, in places where the Romans would be exposed to imminent danger, from the bogs and marshes, caused by the stagnated waters, where the river had overflown its banks.

* Dion Cassius, lib. 6.

The Germans swam over; and Plautius, with the legionary troops, passed over a bridge higher up: a fierce battle ensued, in which Togodumnus was slain, and the Britons were routed with great slaughter.*

Plautius having gained four successive victories in Britain, sends to the emperor an account of his proceedings. Claudius waiting in Gaul, to know the result, was parading the country with his armed elephants, in all the state of an eastern monarch; and the news of his general's success was no small matter of exultation. "So great a matter was it deemed," says Milton, "even for Roman troops and Roman generals to meet the native and naked valour of the Britons, when defending their own country."

Claudius hastened to embark for Marseilles, from whence he marched to Gessoriacum, or Boulogne, where he took shipping for the British coast, with a considerable reinforcement, and landed safely at the Portus Rutupinus, now called Sandwich.

As soon as the soldiers were disembarked, Claudius proceeded to the banks of the Thames, on

* "This happened, it is supposed," says Smollett, "near the place now called the Isle of Dogs, almost opposite to Greenwich, because the river is there fordable, and at no other place between that and the sea.

which Plautius was encamped. The two armies being joined, and the soldiers already victorious, although not without sustaining many losses, were animated with new courage now they had the emperor at their head; therefore, although the Britons bravely disputed the passage, the Romans crossed the Thames into the territory of the Trinobantes, and took Camolodunum, the capital.

These victories had such an effect upon some of the British tribes, that they resorted to the emperor's camp, to make their submission, these were the Belgæ, as Smollett supposes, who were not so long settled in the country; but none of the ancient natives would give up their independence excepting the Iceni, who courted the alliance of the Romans. Caractacus still kept the field, undaunted after the losses he had sustained; and continued for many years to cherish the love of liberty and independence among his countrymen.

Claudius did not think proper to expose his person for any length of time in Britain. Having received the submission of those tribes who surrendered themselves, he returned to Rome, from whence he had been absent six months, and in Britain only sixteen days. Claudius now assumed the title of Britannicus, from his conquests obtained in Britain, the honor of which he took to himself, and left Plautius to conclude the campaign.

While Plautius was combating those Britons who were subject to the sons of Cunobelin, he found a fierce enemy in the valiant Caractacus, who continued to oppose him. Vespasian was engaged in a different part of the island, and his success was equal to his great talents. He subdued and took possession of the whole extent of country on the sea-coast, from Kent to the Land's-end, including Hampshire, Wiltshire, Somersetshire, and Cornwall, the most part of which, in a former age, the Belgæ had reduced into their power. The Durotriges, and some others, had maintained their original independence; but even these were overpowered by the arms of Rome, and the military skill of the great Vespasian; who, on his return to the capital, was honoured with a triumph, and had the consulship conferred on him.

Aulus Plautius, although a consummate general, found himself exposed to a variety of dangers, while he had to combat with the undaunted courage, and invincible fortitude of Caractacus. This celebrated chieftian was cool, penetrating, and persevering: from his experience and judgment he was fertile in expedients; and his patience in adversity was such, that his repeated defeats only served to stimulate him to new attempts. But, with all these great qualities, he was unable to withstand the arms, and military discipline, of the Romans. He, therefore, employed himself in skirmishes, and harrassed the

Roman army with great success: and his parties, when overmatched, retreated to mountains, fens, and fastnesses, unknown and inaccessible to the enemy. But Plautius proceeded in his conquests; and subjugated the Dobuni, Ancalites, and Trinobantes, or the people of Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Middlesex, and Essex. On his return to Rome, he enjoyed the honours of an Ovation, or lesser triumph.

After an interval of two years, Aulus Platius was succeeded by Publius Ostorius Scapula.

P. Ostorius found matters in a very critical state, owing to the fierce and untractable spirit of the natives, who were incessantly making inroads on those parts of the country which the Romans had brought under their dominion. The Britons were aware of the disadvantageous situation of the new general, who had to command troops with whom he was not yet acquainted, and was a stranger to the country; besides that, winter was approaching. They became over confident, that under such disadvantages, the general would not think of soon attacking them; but his actions quickly convinced them of their mistake. He first subdued the Iceni, or Norfolkmen, who were for asserting their independence. He then placed garrisons on the river Anton, or the Nen, in Northamptonshire; and fortified the passages of the Severn. He then proceeded to lay

waste the territory of the Cangi, or the Cheshire men; from thence he passed over into the country of the Ordovices, or men of North-Wales, who were not prepared to oppose him. He was subduing all before him, to the Irish Sea, when he was informed of the turbulent spirit of the Brigantes, who were for throwing off the Roman yoke. That people, whose territory at that time seems to have included a part of Lancashire, and perhaps of Cheshire, were quickly reduced, and brought to submit to the power of Rome. But the Silures were become so untractable, that it required no small force to subdue them. That warlike people inhabited a country intersected by rivers, and defended by woods and mountains, which, with their natural bravery, rendered them very troublesome to the Romans. Their territory composed the counties of Hereford, and Monmouth; and, according to most of our antiquaries, the counties of Glamorgan and Brecon.

Caractacus had now placed himself at the head of the Silures and some other tribes, who were the the most inveterate against the Romans, and the most jealous of their independence. This great prince, from his experience in war, and his persevering opposition to the progress of the Roman arms, was the most competent to inspire the Britons with ardour and courage in the grand struggle they were now making for the independence of their country. Caractacus having long withstood the force of that

people, and being sensible that the whole of their power was to be directed against him, used every precaution to render himself formidable. With that view he passed the Severn, moving the seat of war to the borders of the Ordovices, where he chose a situation, such as he deemed highly advantageous to himself, and embarrassing to the enemy. He pitched his camp in a place on the edge of Shropshire, contiguous to Radnorshire, and since called Caer Caradoc,* or the camp of Caractacus. This British camp was situated on the top of a high hill, the sides of which were abrupt and difficult of access, fortified by a rampart of high stones. The foot of the hill was defended by a deep river. The hero himself went round the camp, incessantly animating his officers and leaders, exclaiming that now was the time, and that was the place, where they must fight for their liberty, or be for ever slaves.

He reminded them of the bravery of their ancestors, who had repulsed Julius Cæsar, and by whose valour they had lived free from tribute and servitude, and preserved their wives and children from disho-

* The spot is still to be distinguished on the top of a steep hill, where the traces of a camp may be seen surrounded by stone ramparts, though now covered with earth. The river Colun, or Clun, runs by, and falls into the Teme, which divides Shropshire from Herefordshire.

nour. The Britons, by their shouts and acclamations, testified by their enthusiastic ardour, declaring with dreadful imprecations that the greatest extremities would never oblige them to yield to their enemies. Their undaunted resolution amazed the Roman general; but his soldiers were clamorous to be led on to the attack, exclaiming that their valour was sufficient to surmount all obstacles; and the tribunes, and other officers, used every method to enkindle the ardour of the troops. Ostorius, having minutely surveyed the situation of the Britons, and perceiving where he might most safely make his assault, crossed the river with the troops, and passed over without difficulty. Having approached the rampart on the side least difficult of access, the conflict became exceeding sharp and bloody, and the slaughter of the Romans was very great. Undismayed, however, by such a terrible reception, they resolved to storm the British camp; and, therefore, according to their usual practice on such occasions, they placed their targets over their heads, and closing their ranks, in that impenetrable form they made a breach in the camp, and forced their way through; when, coming to close quarters with the Britons, they at length drove them from their entrenchment further up the mountain. From thence, as they wore neither mail nor helmet, they were dislodged, by the well-armed Roman legionaries who attacked them with their heavy swords and javelins, or by the pikes and spears of the aux-

iliaries. Their stern but inefficacious valour had no resource against the discipline and arms of the Romans. The wife and daughter of the British chief, together with his brothers, were taken prisoners, while he, having made his escape, betook himself to Cartismandua, queen of the Brigantes; and depending on her generosity, he was infamously betrayed by her into the hands of his enemies. Such was the fate of that great British champion, who, according to Tacitus, had now for *nine years* so nobly withstood the Roman arms; although Milton computes the time to have been two years less. The historian, with true generosity, expatiates with delight upon the fame of our hero. He informs us that his name was become illustrious through all Italy, as well as the provinces.

When he was brought to Rome by order of the emperor Claudius, all ranks of people were anxious to see this wonderful man, who had for so long a space of time spurned the alliance, and opposed the arms of the Romans. The senate spoke in high terms of the atchievment performed by the capture of Caractacus, and compared it with the most magnificent of those conquests which had added to their national glory; as when the Numidian Syphax had been reduced by Publius Scipio, and Perseus by Paulus Emilius, or when at any period the most potent monarchs had submitted to the Romans. The manner in which the British prince was presented

before Claudius, and his behaviour on the occasion, are described by Tacitus. That day was considered as the time of some grand spectacle, the emperor's guards were placed in order, and himself seated on his tribunal, while the captives were ordered to be brought into his presence. First appeared the vassals of the British prince, with the trappings and spoils of the war; these were followed by his wife, brothers, and daughters, imploring mercy in the most abject terms; then, last of all, came Caractacus himself, with a dignified aspect, betraying neineither fear nor perplexity in his countenance. Approaching the tribunal, he is said to have addressed the emperor as follows:—

"Had my moderation been equal to my birth and fortune, I had arrived in this city, not a captive but an ally; nor would you have disdained the alliance of a prince like me, descended from illustrious progenitors, and vested with the supreme authority over many warlike nations. My present fate redounds as much to your honour, as to my own disgrace. I was in possession of vassals, horses, arms, and wealth:—what wonder then that I was unwilling to be deprived of them? for, though you are ambitious of universal empire, it does not follow that all men ought tamely to submit to your dominion. Had I surrendered myself in the beginning of the conquest, neither my misfortune, nor your glory, would have attracted the attention of

the world; and my fate would have been buried in oblivion. But if you now spare my life, I shall be an eternal monument of your clemency."

The emperor was so struck with the deportment of the prince, the capital of whose patrimonial territory he had himself entered while in Britain, and so affected with the noble simplicity and undaunted spirit of his address, that he ordered both him and his relations to be freed and pardoned.

The next grand object here is Offa's Dyke, a vast ditch and rampart constructed by Offa, king of Mercia, to restrain the Britons from recovering their lost possessions. This stupendous work was raised in the year 760. It extends from the mouth of the Dee to that of the Wye, an extent of eighty miles of which Johannes Sarisburcensis, in his Polycraticon, says, "Harold made a law, that if any Welshman passed this boundary, the king's officer should cut off his right hand." At certain distances there are still marks or sites of forts, forming a boundary between the Welsh and English. Camden and other authors, have confounded this celebrated boundary with Watt's Dyke, which runs parallel to it in North Wales. The utility of the latter is very uncertain, unless it was made by the Danes, in time of peace, for purposes of traffic; hence, the space between the dykes might have been considered neutral ground. The following account of Offa, I

transcribe from Theophilus Jones's History of Breconshire.

"The ambitious designs of Mercia, which indeed apparently slumbered but never slept, were now renewed with increased violence under Offa; who entered heartily into the depredating schemes of his predecessor Ethelbald. Scarcely a day passed without some attempts to harass the unfortunate *Ferlicians.** The Welsh finding that forbearance on their part served only to increase the confidence and invite the attacks of the enemy, resolved at length upon a bloody retaliation. Hitherto their system had been merely defensive, but now rising *en masse*, they suddenly entered Mercia, and having laid waste all before them, obliged the enemy, after a dreadful carnage, to retreat beyond the Severn, and returned home laden with plunder and spoils.

"Fierce Offa and the Saxons fled before them."

Encouraged by this success, and animated with the hopes of further booty, they repeated their incursions and compelled their cruel and inveterate enemy to tremble in his turn. Offa, being thus not only baffled in his designs against Fferregs, but alarmed for the safety of his kingdom, called in the assistance of other Saxon princes, and with a

* Herefordshire and Radnorshire men.

strongly confederated army entered Wales. The Britons being far outnumbered by the invader, retired to the mountains upon their approach, driving before them their cattle and carrying with them their effects; so that the Saxons were soon obliged to retreat into England, probably for want of provisions, though the cause is not expressly assigned by historians.

In order to curb the restless spirit of the Britons, (as he was pleased to term it) Offa during this expedition placed a strong colony of Saxons in Fferregs, who in their own defence were compelled to resist and prevent the incursions of the inhabitants of the principality into the English borders, and the better to ascertain the boundary of the two countries, he formed the well known dyke which bears his name, and which, even as late as the reign of Edward the confessor, was regarded as the discriminating line between England and Wales; for by a law of Earl Harold it was ordained, that if any Welshman coming into England without licence, should be taken on that side of Offa's dyke, his right hand should be cut off by the king's officer. It extended from Flintshire in North Wales, to the mouth of the river Wye near Chepstow, or as some say, Tydenham passage in Gloucestershire. The tradition of the inhabitants of Ystradyw and the adjacent part of Monmouthshire, carries it over one side of the Sugar Loaf;

if so, Penclawdd or the head of the ditch, in Monmouthshire was upon Offa's Dyke; but Mr. Coxe thinks it to have been the scite of an old Roman road. The boundary just mentioned most probably took a more eastern direction, through Herefordshire and Monmouthshire. Pennant observes, that in all parts, the ditch is on the Welsh side, and that there are a great number of artificial mounds, the scites of small forts, in many places along its course: these were garrisoned and intended for the same purpose as the towers in the famous Chinese wall; to watch the motions of the neighbours and to repel hostile incursions. The remains of this useless work of labour and expence are very visible in several places in North Wales, and on a hill three miles west of Knighton in Radnorshire; through which town, called Tref y clawdd commonly Treclodd, or the town of the ditch, it evidently passed; but from thence southward it can only be traced by conjecture. This incroachment upon their limits considerably distressed the Welsh upon the borders, and compelled the princes of Powis* to remove the seat of government to Marthrafael. Hereford (then called Fferregs, and the town,† Caerffawydd, or Beechchester) was no longer subject to the reguli of Fferregs, and Hugh Thomas‡ says, that "from

* Wynne, Warrington, &c. † Llwyd's Breviary of Britain, p. 43. ‡ MS. Rawl. 1220. Bodl. Lib. 7.

henceforwards their capitol was transferred to Brecknock," meaning, I presume, some place in the country of Brecknock; as it does not appear that the town was built until more than three centuries after this time.

Tangwydd ap Tegyd succeeded only to the possession of that part of Fferregs which is now called Radnorshire, to a small part of Montgomeryshire, and to that portion of Brecknockshire which was under his father's government. The names of the cantrefydd or hundreds, of which this territory was composed, in the map now remaining of it, are so disfigured by mistakes in spelling, as to become unintelligible even to a Welsh reader, and would appear particularly uncouth to an English eye. The Britons thus circumscribed by boundaries, erected by the power and protected by the forces of their adversary, and driven to their mountains, where they were compelled to conceal themselves, smothered for some time their vexation and apparently forgot their injuries. Offa vainly flattered himself that every thing was secure; but the feelings of a brave people determined to live free or die courageously, are not easily suppressed; they only wore the mask of indifference, while in reality they plotted the destruction of the obnoxious boundary and the avengement of their undeserved oppressions: for when Offa was lulled into a fancied safety and negligent inactivity, un-

suspicious of impending danger, and perhaps despising the efforts of a vanquished and (as he supposed) desponding foe; they suddenly arose, and having levelled the rampart and filled the ditch, attacked the unprepared Heptarch in his very intrenchments, whence he escaped not without some difficulty. Offa was at this time encamped at a place in Herefordshire, now called Sutton Walls, or Sutton Wallia, about three miles north of Hereford; it was then the royal residence of the Saxon, and was situate * on the top of a hill, the summit of which is level, and estimated to contain about thirty acres of land, fenced round with a continued rampart of earth, except on the north and south sides, where there seem to have been roads into it. In the middle of this area is a hollow or low place, which the people in the neighbourhood now call the cellar, and sometimes Offa's cellar; a few years ago, in digging here, a silver ring was found of an antique form. Here the dark and villainous murder of Ethelbert king of the East Angles was contrived and executed by Offa and his infamous queen, Quendreda or Quendrida:

"Sutton acres drench'd with royal blood
Of Ethelbert, when to th' unhallowed feast
Of Mercian Offa he invited came,
To treat of spousals; long connubial joys

* Price's Hist. Heref. p. 15.

He promised to himself, allured by fair
Elfrida's beauty, but deluded died
In height of hopes; Oh hardest fate to fall
By shew of friendship and pretended love."

Offa, indeed, was a strange mixture of great talents and valour with most infamous vices and unrelenting ferocity. William of Malmsbury (my countrymen will pardon me for quoting such an author) thus describes him: "king Offa was a man of mighty courage and magnanimity, who resolutely undertook whatever he once conceived in his mind; he reigned thirty-nine years, When I consider his exploits, which were varions in their nature and of different kinds, I am in doubt whether I should reckon him among the good or evil kings, as there was such an interchangeable vicissitude in him of virtues and vices: he was like Proteus, his form and features ever changing." Cressy calls him, a noble and illustrious king, and because he made a pilgrimage to Rome, and founded the monastery at St. Alban's, he conceals most, and forgives him the remainder of his crimes.

Mortified beyond measure at his late discumfiture at Sutton, as well as by previous disappointments, the bloody Mercian despot wreaked his vengeance upon some unfortunate hostages whom the chance of war had thrown into his power; these he sacrificed to his fury without mercy, and

the conflict between him and the Britons was again renewed with increasing rancour; but though many engagements ensued between the contending parties, no material advantage was gained on either side till the fatal * batle of Morfa Rhuddlan or Rhuddlan marsh, in the vale of Clwydd in Flintshire, where the confederated Welsh were totally defeated and their leader slain. Bishop Gibson, † upon the authority of a MS. in the Hengwrt collection, asserts, that Meredydd king of Dyfed, and Offa himself, fell in this engagement; but other authors speak differently. Stowe ‡ says, he died, after a reign of thirty-nine years at Offley, and was buried in a chapel on the banks of the river Ouse. Camden § likewise quotes Florilegus, who asserts that Offa made choice of Bedford for the place of his interment; but that the river Ouse being once more rapid, and rising higher than ordinary, swept away his monument. This is confirmed by Matthew Paris, who, speaking of the battle of Rhuddlan, ‖ stamps the character of this prince with eternal infamy; for he informs us, that in cold blood, he gave orders that every man and child who had been taken prisoners, should be indiscriminately massacred and scarcely did even the

* A. D. 796. † Add. to Camden's Flintshire.
‡ Chronicle. quarto, p. 89. § Camden's Bedfordshire.
‖ Vit. Off. p. 987.

weaker sex escape his fury.* The memory of this tragic event has been transmitted to posterity by an antient Welsh tune called Morfa Rhuddlan. There is something so peculiarly plaintive and elegiac in the notes of this composition, that I cannot resist the temptation of inserting it, and to prove how well the sound conveys the language and sentiments of the bard upon this disastrous event, I need only mention, that when it was first played upon the harp to the late colonel Chabbert, (a Swiss gentleman, who came to reside in Breconshire) it brought tears into his eyes while he observed that he was sure it commemorated the defeat of a great army."

The music of this plaintive Welsh melody, is also published in Jones's History of Breconshire. "The original words," he says, "are lost, those now adapted to the tune are versified from a fragment published in the 'Letters from Snowden.' It was set by the late Parry, a celebrated blind Welsh harper."

* Offchurch in Warwickshire, Offington in Sussex, and Offley in Staffordshire, preserve the memory of this royal Saint.

MORVA RHUDDLAN.

Fair on old Havren's banks
The modest violet blooms,
And wide the scented air
Its breath perfumes;
Bright shines the glorious Sun amidst the Heaven,
When from its cheering orb the clouds are driven,
A charm more beauteous still adorn'd the flood,
Gwendolen's fatal form, Llewelyn's blood.

For her, in arms opposed
Contending warriors strove;
Twas beauty fir'd their hearts,
Gwendolen's love.
On Morva Rhuddlan's plain the rivals stood,
Till Morva Rhuddlan's plain was drench'd in blood:
Not all proud Lloegyr's* might could Cymru quell,
Till foremost of his band young Griffith fell.

Gwendolen saw him fall;
And "oh!" the maiden cried,
"Could maiden tears avail
Thou had'st not died!"
Distracted, to the plain Gwendolen flew
To bathe her hero's wounds, her last adieu!
Fast o'er her hero's wounds her tears she shed;
But tears alas were vain—his life was fled.

* England is still called Lloegyr by the Welsh, and Englishmen, *Saison*, the Welsh word for Saxons.

Oh then for Griffith's son,
Ye maids of Cymru mourn,
For well the virgin tear
Becomes his urn:
Nor you, ye youths! forbid your tears to flow
For they can best redress, who feel for woe.
Sweet sleeps the lovely maid, wept by the brave,
For oh! she died for him she could not save.

On Bryn Glas, a mountain near Pilleth, a little south-west of Knighton, a bloody battle was fought in 1402, between Sir Edmond Mortimer, and the last assertor of Welsh independence, the celebrated Owen Glendower,* in which the former was defeated with the loss of 1100 men. This victory is thus narrated by Parry, in his life of Glyndwr.

"When those violent outrages on the part of Glyndwr were made known to the king, he once more resolved to make an endeavour to crush him. He, accordingly, planned some formidable arrangements for the occasion; but, before he could take the field, or collect his forces together, he received intelligence of an important victory, gained by Glyndwr over Sir Edmond Mortimer. The Welsh chieftian, after having committed the ravages to which allusion has just been made, directed his operations against the demains of the Lords Marchers,

* written *Owain Glyndwr*, in Welsh.

on the borders of South Wales. Among these, the estates of the Earl of March, then an infant in the custody of Henry, became, in particular, a prey to his predatory incursions. Sir Edmond Mortimer, uncle to the young Earl, and entrusted with the protection of his property, opposed him, at the head of a large body of his nephew's dependants, near Knigton, in Radnorshire. The contest was extremely obstinate and sanguinary; but fortune at length declared in favor of Glyndwr, who, in a personal encounter with his adversary, dismounted him and took him prisoner. In addition to the capture of Sir Edmond Mortimer, the loss of eleven hundred of his men, chiefly slain on the field of battle, was the result of a victory important at once to the interests and fame of Glyndwr."

"The English historians," continues his biographer, in a note to this part of his memoirs, have charged the Welsh, and particularly the Welsh women, with some undefined and nameless atrocities committed on the bodies of the English that were slain in this battle. Holinshed speaks of the "shameful villanie used by the Welshwomen" on this occasion as being such as "eares should be ashamed to heare and continent toongs to speake thereof." And Shakespear has adopted the disgraceful accusation in the following passage —

——————"When all athwart there came
A post from Wales, loaden with heavy news,
Whose worst was that the noble Mortimer,
Leading the men of Herefordshire to fight
Against the irregular and wild Glendower,
Was by the rude hands of that Welshman taken,
A thousand of his people butchered,
Upon whose dead corpses there was such misuse,
Such beastly, shameless, transformation,
By those Welsh women done, as may not be,
Without much shame, retold or spoken of."

Thomas de Walsingham, who wrote about forty years after the event, is the first propagator of this odious narrative; but Mr. Pennant has shewn, from another old writer, that, whatever truth there may be in it, the disgrace must be ascribed to a certain follower of Glyndwr, and not to the chieftain himself."

Before we close this article and quit the county, the following correct remarks, by Mr. Malkin will not be unacceptable to the reader. "The eastern part of Radnorshire, is, upon the whole, a fine and beautiful country; but it has nothing uncommon in its landscapes, its buildings, ancient or modern, or any of those local objects, by which in districts more decisively marked by art or nature, the spectator may trace the outline of character, while he surveys the geographical position.

The language of Radnorshire is almost universally English. In learning to converse with their Saxon neighbours, they have forgotten the use of their vernacular tongue. It is uncommon to meet with a peasant who understands Welsh, though it seems

to have been generally spoken even in the eastern parts of this county so lately as the middle of the seventeenth century. The angle of the county beyond Rhayader to the north-west is however not to be excepted, where the few scattered people speak nothing else. But the features and character of this corner participate entirely in those of Cardiganshire; and when we recollect how near Offa's dyke approaches to this spot, we should perhaps rather wonder that the Welsh language has lost so little ground, and not been obliged to recede still further. Nay, in the south-east part of the county, about Clyrow, Paine's Castle, and other places in that neighbourhood, even beyond Offa's dyke, the Welsh language is understood, and all are able to speak it, though they decidedly affect the English. About Presteign, no natives understand Welsh, but it is partially known to all or most in the places five or six miles to the westward. It may indeed be suspected, that the people in the east of Radnorshire are not Welshmen, who by vicinity and intermarriages have gradually changed their speech for one more fashionable, but that they are the direct descendants of the English marchers, who with their rapacious followers, occupied the limits between England and Wales, and were pouring in upon the natives of the Welsh shires, from Hereford, Shropshire, and the English part, on every slight pretence of licentiousness, disaffection, or danger. By these means they might have driven

the aboriginal Britons still further into the mountainous district, and have established themselves in their seats. I merely offer this as a supposition equally tenable with any other, to account for the discontinuance of the Welsh language in Radnorshire. After all, the circumstances which occasioned it may be well known. Caradoc of Llancarvan assigns some which are highly probable. He says, that a great number of Saxons, as the English have always been called by the Welsh, settled in Powys on the Norman invasion. It seems they were unwilling to submit to the bastard king, as he was styled in Wales, or to live under the government of his son the red king. Thus the Saxon language became generally known and spoken in Powys; and from this account of its first introduction, the consequence of a more familiar intercourse between the two nations will naturally be derived. To this source we may evidently trace the subsequent predilection of the Powysians for the English government and nation, with which it appears from history that they were for the most part in alliance, and engaged against the princes of North and South Wales. The ultimate subjugation of Wales was owing to the assistance frequently afforded to the English kings by the princes of Powys, of which Radnorshire was a part. The character of the people accords with that of the Welsh in general, though their tongue differs. They speak English with very few vulgarisms, and with very little

of provincial accent. They are also remarkably figurative in their phrases and expressions. They grow a good deal of corn in the east, and appear to live with full as much freedom and comfort as the people sf Brecknockshire, and with much more than those of Cardiganshire. Their cottages in general seem to be substantially weather-proof, though they have not the superior cleanliness and convenience of those in Glamorganshire. Sheep have already been mentioned as remarkably numerous in this county, aud they constitute the chief support of the industrious poor. There are no large manufactories established, but the people make a sufficient quantity of coarse cloth, flannel, and stockings, for their own use. The woods and hills are plentifully stocked with game, and the county has been celebrated, almost two centuries ago, for its deer; though I believe there are fewer now in this than in any other part of Wales, where we are to understand, on the authority of Leland, that wild deer then universally abounded."

For the agricultural capabilities, and all further information respecting this county, the reader is referred to Malkin's South Wales, vol. 1. From hence we shall visit the upper part of the hundred of Builth, and after embracing Llanwrtyd Wells, return aud trace the course of the Wye down.

GHANA · BIBLIOTECA

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THE

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